

# WATER *and why your restaurant should give a splash*

In the competitive world that is foodservice, commercial, geographical and logistical factors mean that you need to strike the right balance between making sure your business is commercially viable and making progress in sustainability. This isn't always simple, so we've developed a few tips to make your journey a little easier when it comes to water.

Here at the SRA we will always champion tap as the best available option from an environmental point of view, as transportation and production are reduced to practically nothing. And of course we are all aware tap water must legally be available for free wherever alcohol is sold anyway. Regardless of your current water service policy, unless you are currently 'tap only' there is progress you can make. Please follow these simple steps - and then if you're still not convinced why not get in touch.

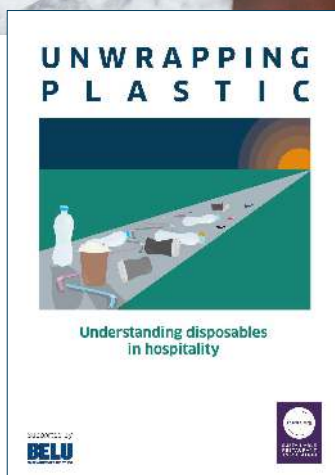


Don't forget that water bottles are just one type of single-use plastic causing a problem.

Find out how to reduce your use in our comprehensive *Unwrapping Plastic* toolkit.

[thesra.org/plastic](https://thesra.org/plastic)

*This toolkit was created for SRA members with Belu, the official water partner of the SRA.*



SUSTAINABLE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

## WHO'S DIVED IN?

### *The Culpeper*

Sustainable East London Pub, The Culpeper, recently switched from serving tap or bottled mineral water to filtered water, to reduce waste, lower carbon footprint, and offer quality chilled Still and Sparkling filtered water. As a member of the Belu Filter Initiative, the pub receives a free filtration system and servicing in exchange for adding a voluntary £1 donation to each table's bill for unlimited filtered water. Belu in turn gives 100% of each donation to its partner WaterAid, so the pub also makes a positive social impact. In their first week alone of serving filtered water, The Culpeper helped to transform the lives of nine people in poor countries with clean water through customer donations.

*"We loved the sustainable element of the initiative, any way we can reduce waste, save space and lower carbon footprint is great for us, the charity side of the filtered water has really struck a chord with the team and everyone is very much embracing the initiative".* JOSH O'DONNELL, GENERAL MANAGER

### *Pizza Hut Restaurants*

When Pizza Hut reviewed their mineral water supplier the main factor behind choosing to work with Belu Water was "doing the right thing". As Belu gives 100% of its profits to WaterAid, Pizza Hut could do good for the world and engage their 8,000-strong team and customer with a positive water story.

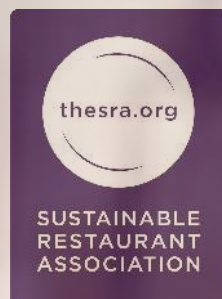
*"Customers have responded positively and being able to communicate with them about the impact their buying choices have made is invaluable. We've also seen great engagement with our teams who recognise that the business they work for is committed to making positive decisions that don't just affect our profit margins but also consider the impact on the wider world."*

WAYNE PENFOLD, PROCUREMENT MANAGER

*The world of water service has very much moved on and with our partner, Belu, you can have a refreshing and supportive conversation across tap, refillables, in house filtration and bottling systems as well as mineral water in recycled and recyclable bottles.*

# WATER

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## STEP 1

### Assess your current practice

## STEP 2

### Identify opportunities for improvement

## STEP 3

### Take action!

#### CAN YOU BUY LESS?

Almost all businesses are buying some water in single use packaging, but not all of this is directly generating revenue.

Could you reduce the quantity of single use bottles?

Look at all areas across the business that are using bottled water, are there any that could switch to tap?

Calculate the cost of buying and recycling water packaging. Check if this still makes commercial sense.

In addition to your financial cost, in Britain alone, the environmental cost of manufacturing and disposing of water bottles is 33,000 tonnes of CO2e every year. An action here in your business directly reduces your contribution to this.

Use tap, filter points or water coolers with glasses, refillables or carafes wherever possible for non-revenue generating areas. For example:

1. Staff use
2. Conference/meeting rooms
3. Head office use

#### CAN YOU BUY BETTER?

Where you must have bottles, could you buy differently and better?

Do you still have imported bottled water in your supply chain?

Where is your water from? There could be a more local water source that would reduce your carbon footprint.

As well as reducing our environmental impact, consider one of the many social purpose bottled water businesses.

Is the bottle made from recycled materials?

Use UK sourced water only.

Look for a water brand that is certified PAS2060 (British standard of carbon neutrality)

Use larger and lighter bottles which produce less emissions per litre.

Look out for green glass which has a higher recycled content than clear glass.

Check the bottle is made from recycled materials – not just that it is recyclable. Use a bottle with at least 50% recycled content when using plastic formats.

#### OTHER OPTIONS:

Do you still need to provide bottles for your customers?

Need to save time and have self-service water?

Is there an opportunity to install a filtration unit?

If you can't get rid of single use water bottles, what packaging should you be looking for?

If some form of bottled water is still needed, consider selling re-fillable bottles.

Consider self-service water stations for customers to help themselves.

Give customers a choice.

Filtration systems vary in size and cost enormously. But there are options for even the smallest spaces.

Assess whether a filtration system could fit front or back of house.

Installing a water filtration and cooling station means you can provide your very own bottles of still, chilled and sparkling water.

Make sure you check your local recycling supports the packaging material you are using.

Set-up self-serve water points.

Reduce packaging by reusing glass bottles for refills.

Look for sustainably made (recycled, British made, recyclable) refillable bottles to sell.

Filtering, chilling and carbonating water on site is about as local as it gets!

You could remove the need for capital investment in the machinery by adopting a model where donations are collected for a charity such as WaterAid, meaning that your machine could be provided without charge by Belu.

If you must sell bottles, look for bottles made from Recycled PET (RPET) and for lightweight ethical glass made with recycled material.

Make sure that you have a proper recycling system in place.

## Did you know?

182g CO2e are required to make just 1 litre of bottled water. 40% of plastic water bottles are still not being recycled. So please reduce, reuse and recycle.

