



Say Yes to Article 12: Proposed regulation of single-use plastic water bottles

Sponsored by [Zero Waste Arlington \(ZWA\)](#)

Article 12, proposed by the Zero Waste Committee for the Spring Town Meeting, would prohibit the sale of plastic bottles of non-carbonated, non-flavored water in sizes of 1 liter or less. It would apply to any business in Arlington that sells bottled water as well as to Town owned buildings, including schools, effective as of November 1, 2022.

- Reduces litter in our streets, parks, and waterways.
- Reduces plastic pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Shows our Town's environmental leadership and sets an example of good stewardship for a green and sustainable Arlington.
- Encourages the consumption of tap water—a free, high-quality, local resource.



What is the Single-Use Plastic Pollution Problem in Massachusetts?

- More than 1.5 billion beverage bottles are sold each year in MA. Only around 20% get recycled. The rest end up in landfills or incinerators which pollute our air and water, or as litter.
- Discarded plastic destroys habitats, harms wildlife, and affects public health by contaminating the food chain. Plastic is petroleum based and a contributor to climate change. We can't recycle our way out of the single-use plastic pollution crisis—we need to reduce our consumption.
- Bottled water has a free, local, and readily available substitute: tap water! We want to encourage the consumption of Arlington's high quality tap water in restaurants, at refill stations, and with reusable water bottles.
- 25 other towns in MA have passed bottled water restrictions, starting with Concord in 2012.

Questions or comments? Visit the [ZWA website](#) or contact zerowastearlington@gmail.com.

Say Yes to Tap Water: Support Article 12
Ask your Town Meeting Members to vote yes for Article 12 at Town Meeting, starting 4/25.