

UnCap LUC FAQ  
By: Student Environmental Alliance (SEA)

1.) Why did Loyola end the sale of bottled water on their campuses?

The student body in the spring of 2012 voted to ban the sale of bottled water on campus because selling bottled water on the Loyola campus was not consistent with Loyola's Jesuit tradition. Loyola's mission is 'to be in service of humanity through learning, justice and faith.' The students felt strongly that water is a basic human right and the University shouldn't be supporting the privatization of this natural resource.

2.) What are the benefits of ending the sale of bottled water?

By ending the sale of bottled water on campus, Loyola students have the opportunity to learn about water resource issues both locally and globally and associated impacts on society and the environment. Another important benefit is that it demonstrates to students that through education and action, socially responsible policies can be implemented.

Loyola's commitment to not purchase bottled water supports the practice that communities should have access to water. Finally, Loyola continues to progress towards being a more socially aware and environmental sustainable campus with the reduction of plastic waste and associated unnecessary energy use to bottle and transport water.

3.) Why didn't Loyola end the sale of all goods in plastic bottles?

Although SEA is aware of the environmental problems caused by the use of plastic, the main objective of *UnCap LUC* campaign is to raise awareness about both the social injustices and environmental impacts of water privatization. Water privatization occurs when private businesses develop or are allowed control of public water supplies, then bottle the water and sell it to the public for a profit.

In Chicago, a person can turn on their tap and receive cool, fresh, clean drinking water. They cannot, however, turn on their tap and receive soda, juice, etc. Access to water is a necessity for life; therefore people should have a right to clean drinking water. While the negative impacts of plastic and energy consumption associated with bottled beverages remain the same, the issue of water privatization focuses on the product in the bottle, not the bottle itself.

4.) What did Loyola do to accomplish this goal?

SEA implemented a multi-faceted, campus-wide educational campaign. They established collaborative relationships with the university administration and worked with other student organizations such as the Unified Student Government Association (USGA) to ensure the campus community became aware of issues related to water privatization and its conflict with the Jesuit mission. Outreach activities included:

- Creating and distributing the *UnCap LUC* petition
- Launching a website
- Tap water challenges and informational tables
- Film screenings and guest speakers

5.) How does Loyola plan to continue educating the student body about the *UnCap LUC* campaign?

SEA will continue with activities such as Tap Water Challenges and informational tables, and water related film screenings each semester. Incoming freshmen will be provided free reusable water bottles. SEA will reach out to student organizations and encourage them to offer reusable water bottles as gifts and/or raffle prizes.

The University began installing water refill stations in the spring of 2012 and will continue to do so at both lakeside campuses. There are 35 refilling stations on Loyola's campuses to date (May 2012).

6.) Where can I learn more about the impacts associated with bottled water?

The following websites offer a great deal of information about bottled water and Loyola's campaign to end the sale on campus:

UnCap LUC [www.uncapluc.org](http://www.uncapluc.org)

Earth Policy Institute <http://www.earth-policy.org/>

International Forum on Globalization, Special Report [http://www.ifg.org/pdf/Blue\\_Gold\\_new.pdf](http://www.ifg.org/pdf/Blue_Gold_new.pdf)

Food and Water Watch <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/>

Natural Resources Defense Council <http://www.nrdc.org/international/safewater-facts.asp>

Corporate Accountability International <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/water-campaign>