



## News Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 11, 2008

CONTACT: John Coleman  
479.575.8272

### **MAYOR ELIMINATES THE PURCHASE OF BOTTLED WATER WITHIN CITY GOVERNMENT**

**FAYETTEVILLE, AR** – The City of Fayetteville has purchased drinking water from Beaver Water District since 1972. The District's mission is to serve its customers in the Benton and Washington County area by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all federal and state regulatory requirements. To ensure this quality, water samples are tested numerous times each day. In Fayetteville, tap water costs about a penny for every three gallons used (about two thousand times less than bottled water), and there's no plastic bottle waste to dispose of when you drink tap water.

The costs of bottled water do not end there. Producing plastic bottles for water consumes about 17 million barrels of oil a year. Nine out of ten of these water bottles go straight to the landfill resulting in one of the fastest growing sources of landfill waste in America. Once in the landfill the plastic never actually biodegrades, but only breaks into smaller and smaller pieces; a source of pollution which will have to be dealt with in the future.

A safe water supply is critical to protecting the public health - the first obligation of all water suppliers. Without our modern water systems, diseases such as cholera and dysentery would be part of everyday life. In the United States, water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water safety and quality. Those water standards are among the world's most stringent (Source: American Water Works Association at [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)).

For these reasons, Mayor Dan Coody has decided to eliminate the purchase of bottled water using public funds except for public safety provisions where it is the only option for hydration. As with many of our daily decisions towards achieving sustainability, this is not only the most economical choice, but also the best ecological choice.

###