



Join the pipe

INNOVATIVE OFFICES: GOING BOTTLED- WATER FREE

CHALLENGE

Many offices provide bottles and cans of still and sparkling water to their employees. These cans and bottles of water are expensive and lead to the creation of excess waste. Ideally, bottles and cans of water would be replaced with tap water in the office environment. However, many offices provide bottled water because it is convenient, and some employees prefer sparkling water. Office managers and employees are not necessarily aware of the negative cost and sustainability impacts of using bottles and cans of water and may not be aware of alternative solutions.

OPPORTUNITY

Several companies provide taps suitable for an office environment that dispenses tap water in both still and sparkling form. This project aims to answer the following questions:

1. What is the payback time of a sparkling water tap in an office environment?
2. What are the environmental impacts of switching from bottles/cans of water to a water tap?
3. What is the employee response and perception of eliminating bottles/cans of water and replacing them with a water tap?



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INNOVATION

Join the Pipe installs taps that dispense chilled tap water, both still and sparkling. The sparkling water dispensed is carbonated tap water. This technology is simple, relatively easy to install and maintain, and easy to use. Join the Pipe also contributes proceeds from each installation to fund clean water and sanitation projects in developing countries.

Read more about Join The Pipe at www.join-the-pipe.org

IMPLEMENTATION TIPS

- A still/sparkling water tap is a sound investment for an office where employees drink bottled or cans of water regularly
- Use employee feedback about water temperature and carbonation level to make adjustments to the tap that will increase employee satisfaction with and use of the tap
- Provide reusable glass bottles with the tap so water can be used in meeting spaces

EXPERIMENT

The environmental, economic and social impacts of a Join the Pipe tap installation were evaluated for an office of 150 employees in Amsterdam. Prior to the tap installation, employees were provided sparkling water in cans. Therefore, impacts were measured relative to the baseline of the company's actual costs and consumption of sparkling water cans. Economic impacts were calculated based on the costs of the Join the Pipe tap installation and operation and the company's reported costs of providing cans of sparkling water to staff. Environmental impacts were calculated based on the environmental footprint of aluminum can waste, based on the company's consumption of sparkling water. The social impacts were measured by surveying employees about their impressions of the Join the Pipe tap.



MEASURED IMPACTS

Environmental

- 225 kg of waste and 1.7 tons of CO2 emissions diverted per year for an office of 150 employees switching from cans of sparkling water to a Join The Pipe tap

Economic

- Payback time of 6 months. Over the next 5 years, accounting for projected growth of the company, cost savings of over €53.000 are projected

Social

- 91% of employees surveyed prefer the Join The Pipe tap over the cans. Over half of respondents identified the improved sustainability of the tap as the reason for their preference
 - Preferences are subjective: 20% of respondents said the Join The Pipe tap had a better taste and temperature than the cans of water. 12% of respondents said the Join The Pipe water was too cold and 28% said that the bubbles were not strong enough from the tap

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