



Blue Communities
Hillfield Strathallan College
Middle School
Environment Committee

What is a Blue Community?

The Blue Community Project calls on municipalities like Hamilton to:

1. Recognize water as a human right
2. Promote publicly financed, owned and operated water and waste-water services
3. Phase out and prohibit the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at municipal events

1. Recognizing water as a human right in Hamilton

- Safeguard against expensive water – Hamilton has one of the lowest water rates in Ontario
- Ensure all residents have equal access to adequate supplies of safe, clean water. – Hamilton is doing this.
- Provide citizens with information – Hamilton has a campaign encouraging us to drink tap water.
- Promote water conservation, treatment, etc. – Hamilton is doing this too and recently won the Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence.
- **Encourage our Federal Government to recognize water as a human right.**

2. Promote publicly financed, owned, and operated water and waste-water services

- Hamilton is doing a great job with this and is identified in the Blue Community Project Guide as a case in point for public ownership of its system and surpassing environmental standards and delivering significant cost savings. (Page 15)
- Hamilton residents are reducing their use with newly installed water meters.

- ### 3. Phase out and prohibit the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at municipal events
- We would like the City of Hamilton to introduce a motion to stop selling or serving bottled water at city owned facilities.
 - Continue introducing new water bottle filling stations, that inform the public about how many plastic water bottles were saved.

Summary

Hamilton can easily become a Blue Community. The first criterion is an acknowledgement, a pledge and a recommendation to our Federal Government to recognize water as a human right. We are currently meeting the second criterion. Meeting the final criterion only requires the City of Hamilton to introduce a motion to stop selling or serving bottled water at city owned facilities.