



City of Ketchum

News Release
September 22, 2015

No More Sales and Distribution of Water in Single-Use Containers on City Property

Ketchum Setting Example As 'Ecologically Sensitive Community'

KETCHUM, Idaho -- Sales and distribution of water bottled in single-use containers are banned on city property and at city events, the City Council decided at its Sept. 21 meeting. Packaging products in plastic bags and foam containers also is discouraged.

"The ban is part of Ketchum's efforts to set an example as an ecologically sensitive community," Mayor Nina Jonas told Council members when she introduced the resolution.

"Water from the tap is safe, tastes great, and comes from local sources," according to the resolution. In addition, the city tests municipal drinking water more than 50 times a year.

"As a society, we are needlessly spending money on bottled water that often is lower quality than tap water. We then put the bottles, made of billions of pounds of oil-based plastic, into the landfill," Jonas said. "We use even more resources to transport water - often from other continents."

OnlineEducation.net reports 22 percent of bottled water brands tested in one study had a higher level of chemical contaminants than many states permit in tap water.

Additional research has found that 17 million barrels of oil, or enough to fuel 1 million cars for a year, are used to produce water bottles yearly. The price of bottled water is up to 10,000 times the cost of tap water, as much as \$10 per gallon compared to less than a penny.

Other studies have found that production of plastic water bottles in the U.S. creates 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. In addition, the number of water bottles used in the U.S. each year could encircle the earth 150 times if laid end to end. Only one in five plastic water bottles is recycled.

Cities across the country from San Francisco to Concord, Mass., have instituted various bans of bottled water.

Ketchum plans to buy hydration stations, making it easier for people to fill their own water bottles at public events and city meetings.

The resolution also encourages the use of biodegradable plates, beverage containers and utensils on city property when single-use products are needed.

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About the City of Ketchum

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

Contact:

Lisa Enourato
(208) 720-9766, lenourato@ketchumidaho.org

Jo Murray
(208) 726-5869, jo@jomurray.com