



Bottled Water 'Damages Environment' Especially with a 10K Mile Delivery

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The Scotsman reports that bottled water has been criticised by campaigners for having a damaging impact on the environment. Friends of the Earth said it was “environmental madness” to transport vast quantities of water often hundred of miles when essentially the same product was available out of the tap.

The Food Commission, a healthy eating campaign group, added that it was “ludicrous” to use fossil fuels when water was plentiful in the UK.

The issue highlights the so-called “food miles” associated with products shipped around the world to satisfy consumers’ demands for varied products and ingredients.

But transporting food and drink by sea, air and road uses extra fossil fuels and adds to more carbon dioxide emissions.

The Food Commission highlighted the example of bottled water on sale in the UK from Fiji which has to travel more than 10,000 miles.

The product, called Fiji Water, is described as coming from “a virgin ecosystem deep in the South Pacific”.

But Tony Juniper, director of Friends of the Earth, said: “Transporting bottles of water thousands of miles across the world is environmental madness.”

The Food Commission was equally critical of bottled water supplied from closer to home, including France and other parts of the UK.

“All these bottled waters mean extra trucks on the road, extra fuel use and extra carbon dioxide emissions when consumers could simply turn on their taps,” said Kath Dalmeny, policy officer at the Food Commission.

Mr Juniper explained there were other environmental concerns about water sold in bottles.

“Countless discarded bottles are either dumped in the ground or burnt in incinerators and our climate is damaged through unnecessary burning of fossil fuels.

“People should turn their back on bottled water and turn on the tap instead.

“UK tap water is amongst the cleanest, high quality water in the world.”

A spokeswoman for supermarket chain Waitrose, which stocks Fiji Water, said: “I understand from the importers of the water that it is never shipped over on its own.”

 <http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3706194>

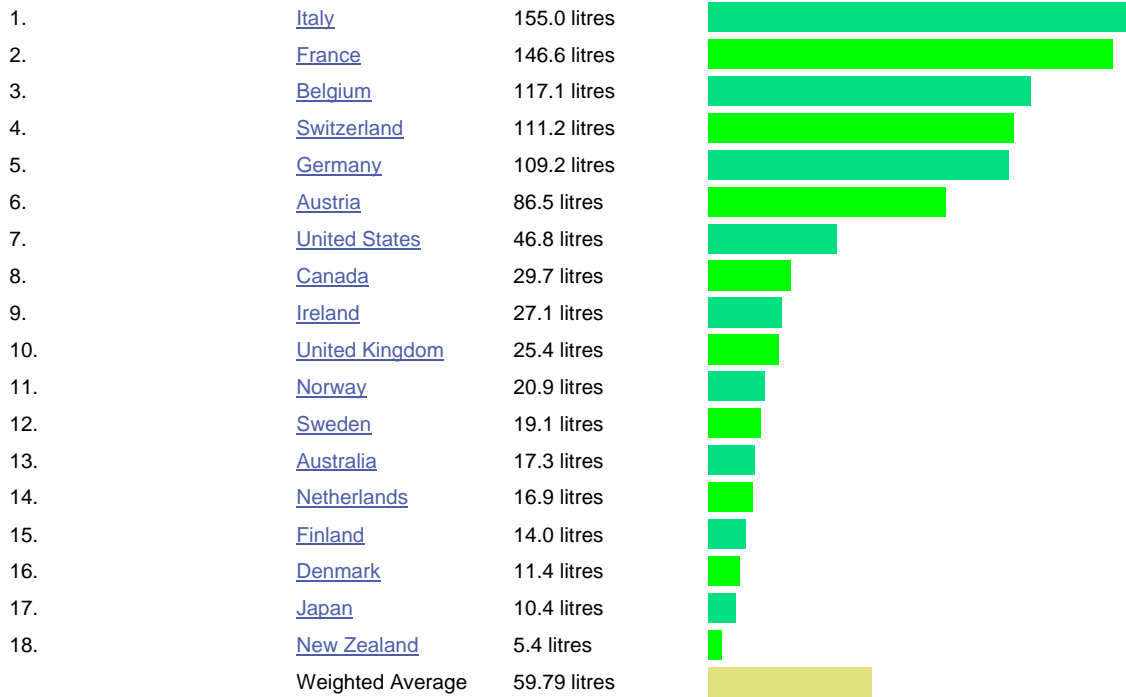
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Definition: Consumption of bottled water. Litres per person per year, 2002.

Amount



Source: [Global Market Information Database](#), published