

Los Angeles World Airports Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle Phase-out Policy

I. Background

Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) has a long-standing commitment to environmental sustainability in its operations. In the early 1990s, LAWA introduced waste diversion and recycling programs at its airports, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Van Nuys Airport (VNY). In 2007, LAWA adopted one of the first sustainability plans for any airport in the nation. In 2019, LAWA's Board of Airport Commissioners adopted the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). The SAP presents a new sustainability vision for LAWA and outlines an ambitious set of prioritized goals for reducing environmental impacts associated with airport operations. Reducing waste and eliminating single-use plastics are important goals for LAWA and the City of Los Angeles (LA City). The LA City Green New Deal (also known as Sustainable City pLAn) and Mayor Eric Garcetti's Executive Directive No. 25 call for City departments to phase out single-use plastic by 2028 and achieve 100% waste diversion by 2050. The SAP calls for LAWA to phase out the sale and provision of single-use plastic water bottles and develop a zero-waste plan for LAWA.

The sustainability benefits of eliminating plastic bottles are numerous and include reducing the amount of waste going to landfills, reducing fossil fuel usage, and combating plastic pollution. Almost all plastic water bottles are made from petroleum, requiring nearly 17 million gallons of crude oil annually. From production to disposal, the life cycle of single-use plastic water bottles emits large amounts of greenhouse gases and contributes to global warming and pollution. While advances by water bottle producers have reduced the amount of packaging and weight of bottle containers, alternatives to single-use plastic water bottles, such as reusable bottles and water refilling stations, produce an insignificant amount of waste in comparison. After consumption, the majority of plastic water bottles are never recycled and end up in landfills or the ocean, taking centuries to decompose and harming wildlife. It is estimated that 8 million tons of plastic enter the oceans every year, creating an environmental crisis as marine life ingest and suffocate on plastic and microplastic. Plastic pollution is further exacerbated by recent major changes in the global recycling markets that make recycling plastic more difficult across the world.

In 2019, over 9 million plastic water bottles were sold at LAX, which is more than 24,000 plastic water bottles per day. To support LAWA's waste and greenhouse gas reduction goals, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is partnering with LAWA to provide approximately 60 new hydration stations, also known as water refilling stations, at LAX to promote reusable container use. Moving away from single-use plastic water bottles and towards reusables reduces plastic waste and pollution to help passengers reduce their environmental impact while traveling.

II. Definitions

'Cartons' are refrigerated and shelf-stable containers that typically contain layers of paper and plastic and includes aseptic packaging which may have an additional layer of aluminum.

'Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle' is defined as bottled drinking water packaged in a sealed plastic bottle and intended primarily for single-service use.

'Bottled Drinking Water' is defined as non-carbonated and unflavored purified water, spring water, mineral water, artesian water, well water, tap water and electrolyte-enhanced water.

'Recyclable' refers to material that still has useful physical or chemical properties after serving its original purpose and can be reused, reconditioned, or used as feedstock for remanufacturing into additional new products.

'Reusable' is designed to be used again or more than once.

III. Policy

- Effective June 30, 2023, LAWA and all businesses operating at LAX and VNY, including concessionaires, restaurants, and airline lounges, shall not sell or distribute single-use plastic water bottles at LAX and VNY.
- The Policy is effective immediately for new lease and operating agreements executed with LAWA before June 30, 2023.
- The Policy extends campus-wide and includes vending machine providers and on-campus events.
- The Policy only applies to single-use plastic water bottles, not other bottled beverages.
- Bottled drinking water served onboard aircraft is exempt from this Policy.

Only single-use water bottles made from recyclable aluminum, cartons, or glass may be sold or distributed at LAX and VNY. This Policy only applies to single-use plastic water bottles and does not preclude businesses from making reusable water bottles of any type of material available to customers, including plastic. If there is a dispute, LAWA's Chief Executive Officer and/or their designee will determine what is compliant.

III. Reporting Requirements

- Beginning in 2024 and annually thereafter, affected businesses must report by January 31st, the brand(s), type of material(s), and the number of water bottles sold or distributed at LAX and VNY for the prior year.
- Data will be reported on an electronic form provided by LAWA.

Please submit all questions and comments to sustainability@lawa.org.

IV. Enforcement

- A. Non-Compliance.** The following circumstances shall constitute non-compliance with the Policy:
 - a) Failure to comply with the Policy.
 - b) Failure to submit an annual report to LAWA as set forth in Section III. Reporting Requirements.
- B. Notice of Non-Compliance/Notice to Comply.** Businesses operating at LAX and VNY found to be non-compliant with the Policy shall be issued a Notice to Comply (NTC) and will have 30 days from receipt of the notice to correct the deficiencies documented in the notice. Failure to receive the NTC does not relieve concessionaires, restaurants, airline lounges, and other businesses' obligations to comply with the Policy.

- C. **Default.** Non-compliance with Policy requirements as defined in Sections II or III may be considered a default of the applicable LAX or VNY permit, license, contract, agreement, lease, Non-Exclusive License Agreement (NELA), concessionaire/lounge agreement, and/or Certified Service Provider (CSP) Program. LAWA's Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee may, pursuant to the applicable terms provided therein, suspend or cancel a permit, license, contract, lease agreement, NELA, or certified provider certification of LAX or VNY businesses that are not in compliance with this Policy. In addition, LAWA may seek to recoup administrative costs from non-compliant businesses.

- D. LAWA reserves the right to assess compliance through scheduled and/or unscheduled audits.

V. Periodic Review

This Policy may be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by LAWA at any time.