



B Lab Statement on GenerationHope Inc.'s B Corp Certification

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for bottled water companies:

"Bottled water companies are eligible for B Corp Certification with additional review by the Standards Advisory Council and, at minimum, incremental disclosure on their public B Corp profile regarding material sensitive issues in the industry."

GenerationHope Inc. is required to disclose a summary of its practices in the areas of Sustainable Usage, Water Access, and Waste as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's statement on the bottled water industry and B Corp Certification [here](#).

Summary of Company

GenerationHope, Inc. (GHI) is a Philippines-based company that sells bottled water. The proceeds from the sale of its bottled water products are used to build public schools in the Philippines. To date, GenerationHope Inc. has helped build 99 classrooms in the Philippines through water sales, co-branding efforts, and marketing initiatives.

GenerationHope manufactures a part of their bottled water products and for the rest they employ two third parties to manufacture who ensure water quality and adherence to sustainability laws mandated by the government.

GenerationHope Inc. sells the following brands of bottled water products:

- HOPE in a Bottle (HIB)
- HOPE in a Box (HIX)
- (Not) Just Tubig and other customized labels

GenerationHope Inc. Practices

Water Access

Manila Water Company implements an average basic charge of 28.52 Philippine pesos per cubic meter, exclusive of foreign currency differential adjustments which vary per quarter. This rate is applicable to GHI's supplier Lakeside Food and Beverages.



Manila Water Company provides water treatment, water distribution, sewerage and sanitation services in the eastern side of Metro Manila. Their water is sourced through Manila Water's East Zone Concession, which in turn gets its raw water from three reservoirs in Bulacan. As reservoirs are surface water, there is no extraction from the water table.

CPAVI owns the property within which its 3 deep wells are located that are permitted by the government. They do not pay a volume based fee for extraction of water from these wells.

GHI owns the land, building, and equipment of its plant in Laguna, Philippines. GHI does not pay a volume based fee for extraction of water from the spring on its property. As of date, it is deemed compliant with all applicable permits and taxation requirements, including a national Environmental Compliance Certificate, and a FDA License to Operate as a Bottled Water Manufacturer.

In terms of efforts towards collective action, GHI and CPAVI intend to share their hydrogeological data with local stakeholders, particularly the local authorities tasked under the law to regulate water use (the local water districts, the National Water Resources Board, the Laguna Lake Development Authority, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources), as well as non-government organizations who have programs tackling water access and sustainability (e.g., WWF). GHI's and CPAVI's plant management team will proactively coordinate with the mentioned stakeholders, and offer their hydrogeological data (when ready) to assist in and encourage research activities aimed at creating a better understanding of the watershed conditions. These efforts are beyond legal compliance expected from both companies.

The company and its suppliers are not engaged in lobbying or policy advocacy to weaken water prices or regulations regarding water access. No stakeholder concerns have been raised about the company or their suppliers' water extraction.

Sustainable Usage

GHI also holds a FDA License to Operate as a Trader, which means it may engage third parties to manufacture some of the bottled water products. Said third parties ensure the maintenance of water quality and the adherence of its processes to sustainability laws mandated by the government.

GenerationHope Inc.'s bottled water products are produced by themselves and contract manufacturers Lakeside Food and Beverages and CPAVI.



Lakeside Food & Beverage sources its water from a deep well that undergoes an annual review by the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water, designed to promote sustainable manufacturing processes, including end-to-end analysis from water extraction to bottling. Lakeside Food & Beverage's input water is regulated by the regional government of Laguna through the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and national government through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The permit to extract from this deep well is granted by National Water Regulation Board (NWRB). They also employ a NWRB-accredited Deep Well Driller that monitors the level of ground water and conducts radiological analysis of groundwater to ensure that there is no presence of any active radiological substances. They hold a Certification from SGS on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) for the production of packaged water from receipt of materials to stage and distribution.

GHI: GHI's flow rate is at 60 liters per minute since 2019, as certified by the government. GHI has Environmental Compliance Certification. To monitor compliance, GHI submits semi-annual Compliance Monitoring Reports to the government agency tasked to implement environmental laws (DENR-Philippines). In terms of GHI's efforts to ensure that water is not extracted at an unsustainable rate, their water source is a natural spring and it is their policy to not extract or use water beyond the free-flowing supply from the surface of the natural spring; and to ensure that the water extraction activities do not alter the aquifer's natural conditions. The company will demonstrate their commitment to this policy by consistently monitoring their source's natural flow rate, water level of the sources, and their water consumption. Their production and engineering team will conduct weekly data-gathering to monitor and document these levels. All data will be recorded and analyzed in a digital logbook/record. This policy is formally integrated into the 'Cleaning and Maintenance Standard Operating Procedure' of their plant.

CPAVI: CPAVI regularly monitors its daily extraction rate. It currently averages at 2,400 cubic meters per day. Like Lakeside, its deep well drillers are NWRB-accredited and thus regulated and monitored by the government. Similar to GHI's practices, to ensure that water is not extracted at an unsustainable rate - CPAVI too will consistently monitor their source's natural flow rate, water level of the sources, and their water consumption.

Waste Management

At this time, GenerationHope Inc.'s *HOPE in a Bottle* product utilizes virgin plastic. The company has indicated that, to the best of their knowledge, the FDA has not yet approved any bottled water suppliers in the Philippines to use bottles made from recycled PET, and that they are actively seeking regulatory approval to allow for recycled content in the product's bottles. The company is exploring other sourcing options that may allow for more recycled content in the



company's bottles. HOPE in a Bottle's boxes are sourced from a Forest Stewardship Council Certified supplier and are made from 100% recycled materials. The company's bottle and label suppliers use a service provider to recycle any PET and PVC materials that are rejected as part of the manufacturing process.

Although GenerationHope Inc.'s water bottle utilizes virgin plastic, GenerationHope, Inc. also sells products that seek to reduce plastic waste, including *HOPE in a Box* (HIX), the first Philippine water packaged in Forest Stewardship Council certified cartons made from responsibly-sourced renewable paperboard, aluminum, and polyethylene. In recent years, HIX's sales represented an average of 13% of the company's total sales and HIB represented 87% of the total sales. As for the HIB sales, GenerationHope, Inc. strives to compensate for its plastic footprint by investing in plastic offsetting and plastic reduction programs.

GenerationHope, Inc. has a recycling program in place whereby its nonprofit partner, Friends of Hope, provides recycling bins to its customers to encourage recycling wherever possible. One way that GenerationHope Inc. seeks to offset its plastic usage is with Eco-bricks that it started using in 2017 to build its classrooms. Eco-bricks are made out of 50% cement and 50% recycled plastic. Additionally, GenerationHope Inc. is the first company in the Philippines to release a line of T-shirts made out of recycled plastic bottles.

Other Management Comments

In 2019, GenerationHope, Inc. sought "Net Zero Plastic Waste Brand" status through HOPEx Environment Group, Inc., a non-profit corporation doing business as the Plastic Credit Exchange or PCX Solutions. The latter assists plastic manufacturers and producers in developing and implementing solutions to offset their plastic footprint. As of date, GenerationHope, Inc. has attained "Plastic Neutral" status and its total plastic offsets have reached 302,480 kg of plastic diverted away from landfills and from spilling into nature.

GHI is the first company to achieve "Net Zero Plastic Waste Brand" or "Plastic Neutral" status in the Philippines. This means that the company has achieved a state where at least 100% of the net plastic footprint (all the plastic purchased along the value chain starting upon ownership and receipt of raw materials less the amount of plastics which were reused and recycled within the process up until use of product or service by consumers in its intended purpose) associated with the brand is reduced to zero through combination of various solutions (including Plastic Offsetting) for a defined period.