



B Lab Statement on The Earth Group'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."

The Earth Group 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](#).

The Earth Group is an organization that exists entirely to support the World Food Programme to help provide school meals to children. Regarding its bottled water sales, the company does not own any bottling facilities, but rather buys finished goods from third-party bottlers.

The Earth Group's Industry Practices

Water Access

The company uses two spring sources.

The first source is located on the land where the bottling facility is, meaning there are no emissions involved with shipping the water to a facility (piped directly in). Bore wells are used to pump out water directly into the production plant. Permits are issued by the provincial Minister of Environment for 10 year periods. Current permits are valid until May 2029 for a total of 238 million litres capacity pumping per year which is 120 US gallons per minute. Water price rates are also managed under provincial rights and government law.

The second source extracts water from a spring in Mackay, Idaho, for which the City of Mackay owns and manages access rights. They own an exclusive water rights agreement with the City of Mackay, and the company's business arrangement with the city was subject to a series of public town hall meetings during which there was no public opposition. The company pays the standard local utility rate for all the water it extracts.

The Earth Group has not engaged in any lobbying or policy advocacy for cheaper water prices nor easier water access. The company has not experienced any stakeholder concerns regarding its water access that remain unresolved.



Sustainable Usage

In the first source, the spring is located on the land where the bottling facility is located, so there are no emissions generated from transport. Provincial rights and government law permit the bottler to extract 450M liters of water from four wells annually, and the bottler is currently using < 1% of total capacity.

In the second source, the spring produces 400-700 gallons of water per minute. The bottler uses a gravity feed spring box to extract the water. The City of Mackay permits the bottler to extract up to 4% of the spring's output, and the bottler is currently using < 1% of the spring's output.

Waste

The Earth Group's reusable aluminum bottles contain up to 70% post consumer recycled content. Each aluminum bottle sold cleans up the equivalent of 1 500ml plastic bottle in partnership with <https://plasticbank.com>. The company's plastic bottles are 100% recyclable.