



B Lab Statement on Agua NEA'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."

Agua NEA is required to disclose a summary of its practices in the areas of Water Access, Sustainable Usage, and Waste Management 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

Agua NEA is a bottled water retailer based in Barcelona, Spain. The company provides customers with mineral water in aluminum cans. They are 100% plastic free and have a commitment to plant one million corals and restore the marine ecosystem.

Agua NEA's Industry Practices

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Access

Agua NEA's bottled water is manufactured by the company's supplier in Asturias by utilising natural spring water. In the jurisdiction of the company's bottled water supplier, the Decree and Water Law grants companies administrative concessions to extract water for a temporary period and for a limited amount of water. The supplier is required to apply for a permit by paying a fixed fee each year for registration. Per the terms of the concession, the supplier is required to maintain the water source in perfect condition for the duration of the concession and is not required to pay a volume based water extraction fee to the government. Agua NEA's bottled water supplier is also subject to a government-assessed tax for wastewater treatment that is calculated based on the volume of water used (although there is no component of the groundwater extraction that is converted into wastewater).

In terms of collective action, Agua NEA deploys part of their revenue to restore marine ecosystems by planting coral. They also raise awareness with consumers by holding workshops



in local communities and schools that emphasize the importance of protecting the ocean and recycling cans.

Agua NEA has reported they are not engaged in any lobbying or policy advocacy for cheaper water prices nor easier water access. The company also reported there are no stakeholder concerns regarding its water access that remain unresolved.

Sustainable Usage

Through their internal management practices and the regulatory structure in place in Spain, Agua NEA's bottled water supplier is able to demonstrate that the company's extraction of water does not impair the sustainability of the water resource over time. The supplier's water extraction does not exceed the permitted extraction stated in the concession by the regulatory body which is based on the Hydrological Plan of the basin and the availability of water in the aquifers.

The company's bottled water supplier monitors the flow rate and water quality of water extracted on a daily basis and the monthly and annual extracted volume data is shared with the pertinent government agency. In compliance with regulation, the company's supplier orders the preparation of an annual aquifer exploitation study, carried out by an independent engineer, and presents it to the corresponding administrative authority to demonstrate the overall health of the water source.

The company and its supplier does not operate in an area where the water sources are overexploited or overlicensed.

Waste Management

Since the founding of the company, the company has not packed any beverage products in PET plastic. For their bottled water, they use aluminum owing to the strong recyclability of the material. Further, the company places receptacles for these cans at their clients' establishments to encourage collection of cans and the company's sales representatives support clients to encourage recycling.

Company management comments (optional):

B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through [B Lab's Public Complaint Process](#). Grounds for complaint include:



1. Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the [certification process](#), or
2. Breach of the core values articulated in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#) within the B Corp Community.