



# Way to go H<sub>2</sub>O: New Hydration Station at Conestoga Mall!

Conestoga Mall's commitment to environmental sustainability has been underscored by the recent installation of the first of two hydration stations.

Bottled water has been an environmental hot button issue in recent years. While many people choose to carry their own refillable bottle with them, the problem becomes where they can refill it in a public place. As well, what about those people who have forgotten their bottle, are thirsty for water, but do not want to have to purchase bottled water?

In the past, there were two options, either a water cooler with its big plastic bottle receptacle or a public water fountain, with neither being optimal solutions.

The new Hydration Station water-dispensing device is a unique system /filling station for re-usable bottles (compostable cups are provided beside the unit for Customers/ Employees who forgot their water bottles at home).

The hydration station processes tap water through Brita's state-of-the-art filtration technologies. Before water reaches the nozzle, it runs through an NSF-certified filter to remove sediment, chlorine taste and odour.

You can find the mall's Hydration Station on the [www.bluew.org](http://www.bluew.org) website, a tool to locate all free municipal tap water refill stations in Canada (there is also an iPhone app and others in the works).

The Hydration Station is one of a number of ways we are trying to embed environmental sustainability into our day-to-day operations as well as the most recent in our line of water conservation efforts including:

- *The "Way to Go H<sub>2</sub>O" Earth Day event*
- *Tenant Water Use Survey*
- *Replacement of all tenant & mall aerators with water efficient models*
- *Testing of all tenant toilets for leaks*
- *Equip all mall washrooms with sensors & low flow toilets*
- *Retention pond which acts as a natural filter for the mall's storm water*

