



USDA Cafeteria Now Selling BioPreferred “Green Bottle Spring Water”

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, 2008 – Assistant Secretary Boyd Rutherford announced today that as part of the continued leadership of the BioPreferred program and the efforts of the Sustainable Operations Council to “green” USDA, the headquarters cafeteria is now selling “Green Bottle Spring Water.” The water comes in BioPreferred packaging – biodegradable bottles that are made of plants, not oil. The pure spring water inside the plant-based bottle comes from a source 600 feet beneath an organic farm near Alton, Virginia.

“We are delighted to give our employees the opportunity to do something good for the environment by purchasing sustainable and environmentally friendly ‘Green Bottle Spring Water,’” said Assistant Secretary Rutherford. “The bottles are actually green in color, which is a great reminder of what we are trying to do here. And, the water tastes great.”



The “Green Bottle Spring Water” biodegradable bottles are being composted as part of the USDA cafeteria’s composting initiative. Employees should deposit the green bottles into the designated bins in the back of the South Building Cafeteria. The bottles should not be placed in the regular plastic recycling bins.

Green Water Spring Water was also added recently to the offerings of the cafeterias in the U.S. Capitol complex. The bottles are being composted for the Capitol at the USDA Beltsville facility.

According to Naturally Iowa, who produces “Green Bottle Spring Water,” the compostable bottles made from plant-based, polylactic acid (PLA) plastics take 65 percent less energy to create than is required to produce traditional petroleum-based plastic bottles. In addition, if the BioPreferred bottles are not composted, but thrown

away with the regular trash, they will decompose in only a few months and will not harm the environment. Traditional plastic bottles may take over 100 years to decompose in a landfill.

For more information on BioPreferred, contact Shana Love, Special Assistant, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, 202-205-4008 or Shana.Love@usda.gov. You can also visit www.biopREFERRED.gov or www.greening.usda.gov.

Last Modified: 11/4/2008