

Americans today buy more bottled water than any other packaged drink. A product, mind you, that is [free to drink out of the tap](#), just as good as the water people pay for and far less damaging to the environment.

LINK (tap water vs. bottled): <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/tap-water-vs-bottled-water#tap>

The companies pumping and selling bottled water are monsters, like Coca-Cola and BlueTriton, which owns Poland Springs. These bottling companies are [dirty dealers in Florida](#), extracting water from our springs for pennies a gallon and then putting our water in plastic bottles to sell around the world at an enormous markup.

They're just as villainous in Maine where BlueTriton wants to use its political heft to [kill a proposed bill](#) in the state protecting groundwater. Poland Springs is a spring in Maine that ran dry years ago.

LINK (bottled water companies abuse Florida springs): <https://www.wuft.org/news/2021/02/23/water-board-approves-pumping-ginnie-springs-water-to-benefit-nestle/>

LINK (Poland Springs): <https://news.yahoo.com/inside-poland-spring-hidden-attack-124934166.html>

Want to start your environmental New Year's resolutions today? Stop drinking bottled water! That's an easy one. You'll protect groundwater, reduce your single use plastic consumption, and save money in the process by ending your habit of consuming a totally needless product.

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[More good news](#) and progress for the Emerald Trail in Jacksonville.

LINK: <https://jaxtoday.org/2023/10/26/emerald-trail-agreement-pushes-project-forward/>

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A recent episode of my "Welcome to Florida" podcast centered on [the ghost orchid](#)!

LISTEN: <https://www.pandora.com/podcast/welcome-to-florida/episode-173-the-ghost-orchid/PE:1308303577>

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[Was it simple incompetence](#) that cost Florida an opportunity to receive federal money to support solar energy or was something more sinister at work? Either way, Florida one of only six states that dropped the ball in applying for this clean energy funding.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/11/02/florida-fails-to-ask-for-federal-funds-to-help-poor-people-buy-solar-panels/>

More clean energy news, the Biden Administration approved [the largest offshore wind project in the nation](#) to move forward off the coast of Virginia last week, unfortunately, plans for [two major wind farms off New Jersey](#) have been scrapped.

LINK: <https://www.eenews.net/articles/biden-approves-nations-largest-offshore-wind-farm/>

LINK: <https://www.popsci.com/technology/orsted-ocean-wind-cancelled/>

It has been mentioned here before that Florida is not a candidate for offshore wind power generation because the winds here are not strong enough to produce energy.

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Federal officials' rejection of a petition seeking to protect [a rare whale species](#) in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico has proponents saying the action leaves the endangered species "at risk of extinction."

LINK: <https://www.wlrn.org/environment/2023-10-31/gulf-protections-rices-whales>