

ABSTRACT FOR POSTER

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THEME _COMMONS_____

ECOEFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF BOTTLED WATER

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Abstract

North America, Asia and Europe consumed more than 130,000 million liters of bottled water in 2004. Studies carried out by the Beverage Marketing Corporation indicate that the consumption has had an increment around 40% in the past 6 years.

Future scenarios show a clear trend to continue with this tendency. Packaging can be made of PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) or glass, which can be re-usable or single use. PET packaging uses PET resin as a raw material, which is performed by means of injecting and later blown to form bottles.

More than 50% of bottles have varying capacities of less than 1 liter; however the 1.5 liter bottle is the most common. The location of the bottling plants is legally required to be next to a spring that fulfils the necessary requirements, both in quality and chemical composition, in accordance with legislation, and in volume.

The paper considers possible improvements to water bottling, and even analyzes the environmental impact of bottled water consumption using Life Cycle Approach. Environmental repercussions and possible solutions are presented

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