

Going green: Event keeps 'water-bottle carnage' in check

By Staci Matlock | The New Mexican

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Photo by: [Jane Phillips](#)/The New Mexican

The annual Souper Bowl raises vital funds for the Food Depot and recognizes the best in local soup chefs.

But when it comes to water, the event has left behind "bottle carnage," according to Stephen Wiman, geologist and owner of The Good Water Company.

So this year, Wiman offered the event something different — clean water served in compostable cups.

Sherry Hooper, executive director of the Food Depot, and Will Trujillo of the Santa Fe Community Convention Center, where the event was held, loved the idea. Hooper said Wiman convinced her the filtered water tasted better than bottled. "Second, I loved the idea of not having

thousands of bottles we would have to recycle," Hooper said. "This year, we had looked at purchasing water bottles people could take with them. Wiman's idea saved us almost \$2,000."

The fact that he donated his services didn't hurt. "We're thrilled to work with the Good Water Company," Hooper said. "We had many comments from guests about the water bottles we were having to use."

Wiman had attended the event before, watching people go from chef to chef for bowls of soup. With each bowl, they would pick up a free bottle of water and sit down to eat.

"At the end of the event, the tables were covered with half-filled bottles of water and there was no recycling," Wiman said. "All of the bottles went to the landfill. So we're trying to stamp out bottled water."

This year, participants at the Souper Bowl could wander over to a "water bar" specially made for The Good Water Company by a local cabinet maker out of recycled glass and concrete. They could flip open one of the four spigots and fill up a compostable cup made of corn with some treated city tap water that had been run through a granulated activated carbon system and chilled.

Wiman said offering the water bar is a way to promote his business, but it is also a way to promote a different, greener way of serving water.

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