



Our new headquarters at 425 Carlton Road, Mount Pocono; the crew on moving day in November; Michael Flood, owner of our building, known as Paradise Hills Corporate Office Park. We are his guests, rent-free but with a payment of \$50 a month to help with building utilities, plus insurance coverage. Our organization now has an office on the ground floor and access to a kitchen and conference room on the first floor.



### That's the way the phthalate leaches...

It is hard to argue the fact that waste management has become a large problem in the world, with landfills growing to enormous sizes and recycling rates remaining dismally low. The number of plastic bottles produced by the bottled water industry and subsequently discarded by consumers has only exacerbated this problem.

According to a 2001 report of the World Wide Fund for Nature, roughly 1.5 million tons of plastic are expended in the bottling of 89 **billion** liters of water each year.

Besides the sheer number of plastic bottles produced each year, the energy required to manufacture and transport these bottles to market se-

verely drains limited fossil fuels. Bottled water companies, due to their unregulated use of valuable resources and their production of billions of plastic bottles, put significant strain on the environment.

The authors of the WWF report suggested that water bottles be washed and reused in order to lessen their negative impact on the environment. Unfortunately, reusing plastic bottles further compromises the quality of the water, due to the fact that more and more phthalate leaches its way into the water as the bottle gets older.

The authors recommended that bottled water companies use local bottling facilities in order to lessen fuel expenditures for transportation needs. But local bottling further compromises water quality due to the reduced health standards for in-state bottled water production and consumption.

It seems there is no feasible solution to this problem. Bottled water severely strains the environment, but solutions degrade the quality of water in the bottles.

(Reprinted from [www.factsaboutwater.org](http://www.factsaboutwater.org))