

# Harnessing the Power of WaterSense for Local Water Conservation & Efficiency Programs

Veronica Blette EPA WaterSense CalWEP P2P Conference - June 2021





My goal is to convince non-partners to partner and to remind existing partners of our program resources

- Why WaterSense?
- Products, Programs, and Practices
- Deep Dive on Homes and Multifamily
   Water Score
- Consumer Campaigns and Partner Tools

Flashback to 2011 event in Roseville, CA with KB Home to recognize 1<sup>st</sup> WaterSense Labeled Homes

# Why WaterSense?



#### ~ 2003

GAO report says water shortages expected in 36 states

Communities face major infrastructure investments

Consumers challenged by rising utility bills

Much of water used outdoors is wasted

No ENERGY STAR like program for water



Identify high-performing technology

Promote water efficient behavior/action

Help consumers save money

Reduce need to expand infrastructure capacity

Save water for critical needs

Enacted into law October 2018



America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018



### Looking at the Current Playing Field\*

Players	Water Utilities	Municipal	Commercial/ Institutional	Industrial	Federal
Threats	Climate $\triangle$ & water variability	Aging infrastructure	Growing population & demand	Increased competition for water	Water quality in buildings
Trends	Energy efficiency & E/W nexus	Green building & Green products	Sustainability (fed/non-fed)	Corporate responsibility & benchmarking	Alternative water sources/reuse/Gl
Needs	Enviro education	Public engagement	Partnerships	Knowledge transfer	Professionalizing water efficiency

\*not intended to be all-inclusive or representative for any individual



### **Our Vision**



WaterSense offers people a simple way to use less water

- Our vision is that all Americans will understand the importance of water efficiency and take actions to reduce their water use – in their homes, outdoors, and at work
- How will we achieve it?
  - By transforming the marketplace for products and services that use water
  - By promoting a nationwide ethic of water efficiency to conserve water resources for future generations and reduce water infrastructure costs



### WaterSense Focus – 3 P's





# Advancing Water-Efficient Products, Programs, and Practices

# look for

### WaterSense Product Evaluation Factors

# WaterSense uses the following factors in determining which products to label



#### **Products must:**

- Offer equivalent or superior performance
- Be about 20 percent more water-efficient than conventional models
- Realize water savings on a national level
- Provide measurable results
- Achieve water efficiency through several technology options
- Be effectively differentiated by the WaterSense label

### Specification Development Process





### Defining Research Needs for Product Specifications



- Critical questions
  - What performance attributes are important?
  - Are there defined evaluation methods for the attributes of importance?
  - Do the evaluation methods produce consistent and reproducible results within an independent laboratory community?
  - Would greater water efficiency impact building systems or health and safety?
- Data gaps exist where these questions cannot be answered
- EPA works with stakeholders to fill data gaps through industry and utility sponsored research



# A Question - how low can you go?



- Studies of residential end uses of water have shown a decrease in water use over time as the efficiency of products improves
- This has allowed communities to achieve reductions in per capita water use despite population growth
- Still opportunity for additional savings
- BUT some concerns about impacts of reduced flows on wastewater flows and water quality in buildings
- Plumbing design largely based on higher historical flows – when demand decreases, there is a chance for water to age within the distribution and plumbing system which can negatively impact water quality

Figure 7. Indoor average gallons per capita per day, REU1999, REU2016, High Efficiency Studies (liters)





### **Remember that it's a System!**

# Materials

DesignFlow rates(building &<br/>plumbing)f(device &<br/>behavior)

### Water Quality

Goal is a system that supports:

- user needs
- public health protection
- efficient use of resources

 National Institute of Standards & Technology - <u>https://www.nist.gov/news-</u> <u>events/news/2020/05/nist-identifies-critical-</u> <u>needs-improved-plumbing</u>

 EPA premise plumbing grants - <u>https://bit.ly/2ZJTCCk</u>



## Working with Standards Organizations

- Where feasible, EPA engages with existing standards committees as early in the process as possible
  - ASME/CSA plumbing fixtures and fittings
  - ASABE soil moisture sensors, weather-based irrigation controllers
  - ICC landscape sprinklers
- EPA leverages resources of standards committees to:
  - Identify and evaluate appropriate performance measures (based on user needs)
  - Develop test methods for the performance measures that can be reliably evaluated in a laboratory
  - Conduct round robin testing to ensure test method repeatability
  - Get buy in of methods and requirements among manufacturer and certification community before publishing a draft specification
- Balanced standards committees give EPA access to input from testing laboratories, certifying bodies, manufacturers, water efficiency experts, utility partners, NGOs and other stakeholders (GET INVOLVED!)



### Independent 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification Process



### WaterSense Labeled Products

More than **36,000** product models have earned the label. Water factors are included in many **ENERGY STAR** certified products.





Pre-rinse spray valves – new DOE standard



Showerheads



Lavatory Faucets



Tank-Type Toilets



Flushometer Valve Toilets



Flushing Urinals



Spray Sprinkler Bodies





Weather- Soil Moisture Based Sensors Irrigation Controllers



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New Homes

# Soil Moisture-Based Controller Specification Finalized

- Newest product released in February 2021
- Soil moisture-based irrigation controllers interrupt scheduled watering if moisture in the soil is adequate for plants
- Labeled soil moisture sensors (SMSs) should be available soon
- SMSs can be stand-alone controllers or plug-in or add-on devices that upgrade existing base controllers



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https://www.epa.gov/watersense/soil-moisture-based-irrigation-controllers

# **A Systems Approach for Outdoors**







Adding Microirrigation to Your Services: A Mini-Guide for Irrigation Professionals







- WaterSense labels programs that certify irrigation professionals who are knowledgeable about waterefficient practices and products
  - Existing specifications cover irrigation design, installation/maintenance, and auditing
- 8 WaterSense labeled programs currently offered by 25 professional certifying organization partners
  - 20 QWEL adopting PCOS (including CalWEP)
- More than 3,000 professionals have been certified by WaterSense labeled programs
  - 1,813 certified pros in California (756 available for hire and 1,057 not for hire)
  - www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro/





### WaterSense Commercial & Institutional Facility Resources



- Water use information by facility type
- Best management practices
- Water-saving tips
- Assessment tools
- Worksheets and checklists
- Live and recorded training webinars
- Case studies and more!



www.epa.gov/watersense/tools



# **A Deeper Dive with Jonah Schein**

Homes 2.0 Multifamily Water Score



# Housing, Water Use, and WaterSense

Residential water use is a large component of water demand for most water utilities – increasing pressure on water resources creates challenges for utilities and builders

#### Why water matters to builders –

- Cost of water
- Being responsible stewards of water is an important part of the building industry's social license to operate
- Water is an increasingly important part of the land entitlement process
- Corporate disclosure & reporting requirements

#### Why builders matter to WaterSense -

- Opportunity to achieve lots of savings, built in from the start
- The building industry is an important consumer of labeled products
- Whole-house building science approach goes beyond products and can be adaptive to climate and market considerations

### WaterSense Homes Program Version 2.0



• 2009 WaterSense homes program had a good run, but needed an overhaul

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- Major update to Homes Program released in February 2021
- Increase flexibility without compromising on water efficiency or performance
- Improve collaboration with existing green certification programs
- Streamline implementation and certification



# **Elements of Version 2.0**

#### Technical requirements for homes

- Meet all items on the mandatory checklist
- Meet an efficiency threshold of 30% below typical new construction (based on national norms)

# Requirements for Home Certification Organizations (HCOs)

- Organizational requirements for oversight, quality assurance, training, reporting, and managing conflicts of interest
- **Technical evaluation** of the proposed certification method
  - Will it effectively differentiate homes that save 30%

**Specification** 

Certification System

**Technical Evaluation** 

Process

# **Mandatory Checklist**



- Ensures homes meet expectations for quality performance
- Checklist features:
  - Basic measures of quality performance not represented by volumetric use
  - Universally applicable
  - Easily attainable at little or no incremental cost

Item	Requirements	Confirmed	
	Pressure-loss test on all water supplies detected no leaks	Yes No	
	Free of visible leaks from hot water delivery system	Yes No	
	Free of visible leaks from toilet(s), as determined through visual assessment and by conducting a dye tablet test in each toilet to ensure the flapper is not leaking	🗆 Yes 🗆 No	
	Free of visible leaks from bathroom faucet(s)	Yes No	
1795 A.S.	Free of visible leaks from showerhead(s)	Yes No	
Leaks	Free of visible leaks from bathroom tub faucet(s), i.e., tub spout(s), when showerhead(s) is activated, as determine through visual assessment after showerhead has been activated for one minute	🗆 Yes 🗆 No	
	Free of visible leaks from kitchen and other sink faucet(s)	Yes No	
	Free of visible leaks from other fixtures or appliances (e.g., clothes washers, dishwashers, hose bibs, irrigation systems) at point of use or point of connection to water distribution system	🗆 Yes 🗆 No	
Toilets	WaterSense labeled	Yes No	
Bathroom sink faucets	WaterSense labeled	Yes No	
Showerheads	WaterSense labeled	Yes No	

#### MANDATORY CHECKLIST FOR WATERSENSE LABELED HOMES

# look for

# How is the 30% threshold measured?

- EPA allows HCOs to develop their own method of measuring water use
  - Goal is to efficiently work within the existing framework of potential HCOs while protecting the integrity of the WaterSense program and ensuring certified homes meet the efficiency threshold
- EPA retains the role of reviewing/approving each HCO's method
  - This evaluation protocol is available on our website
  - Involves a stress test for the HCO's proposed certification method and threshold where a series of reference homes are compared
  - Scope (geographic area, single vs. multi-family, etc.) is determined by the HCO's application



# **Considerations in the Technical Evaluation**

EPA considers the following features which are applied across a range of homes/buildings, landscape sizes, and climates as part of its technical evaluation:

Indoor	Outdoor
<ul> <li>Toilets</li> <li>Showerheads</li> <li>Lavatory faucets</li> <li>Kitchen faucets</li> <li>Clothes washers</li> <li>Dishwashers</li> <li>Bathtubs</li> <li>Hot water delivery/recirculation system</li> <li>Thermostatic shutoff valves in showers</li> <li>Leaks and leak detection systems</li> <li>Other (if applicable)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Plant type(s) (i.e., turf, shrub/ornamentals, xeriscape)</li> <li>Irrigation type(s) (i.e., spray or microirrigation)</li> <li>WaterSense labeled spray sprinkler bodies (with internal pressure regulation) or pressure-regulating valve</li> <li>Irrigation scheduling technologies, including: <ul> <li>WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller</li> <li>Soil moisture-based irrigation controller (soil moisture sensor)</li> <li>Rain shutoff device (rain sensor)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Efficient irrigation design or professional irrigation audit</li> <li>System flow rate intensity</li> </ul>

### **Approved HCOs**



HCO	Overarching "Green" Program	Verifiers	Certifications to date	Important Notes
RESNET HERSH20	HERS Energy Ratings	~2,000 HERS Raters and ~1,000 Rating Field Inspectors (RFI)	~3,000,000 HERS Rated Homes	<ul> <li>Designed to work with HERS energy ratings</li> <li>ENERGY STAR approved HCO</li> <li>Largest overall footprint</li> </ul>
Home Innovation Research Labs	NGBS Green	~300 NGBS Verifiers	~280,000 NGBS Green Certified Homes	<ul> <li>Designed to work with NGBS Green Certification</li> <li>Broadest eligibility</li> <li>Inclusion of alternative water credits</li> </ul>



### **Approved Certification Requirements**

НСО		WACM	System Type	Certification Threshold	Types of Homes	Geographic Scope
RESNET		HERSh2o	Performance rating system	≤ 70*	New/existing single-family	National
Home Innovation Research Labs	Prescriptive Path	NGBS Green WaterSense Checklist	Prescriptive checklist	All checklist items	New/Existing single & multi- family homes	National
	Performance Path	NGBS Green Water Rating Index (WRI)	Performance rating system	≤ 64*	New single & multi-family homes	National

\*NOTE: For these rating system *lower* is better. 0 = net zero use and 100 = reference home water use.



## How This Looks for a "California Home"



Results will vary from home to home based on size, climate, and features. Sample home:

- San Bernardino, CA
- 2,400 ft<sup>2</sup>, 4-bedroom home
- 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> lot

- WaterSense labeled toilets
- 1.2 GPM WaterSense labeled lavatory faucets
- 1.8 GPM kitchen faucet
- 1.8 GPM WaterSense labeled showerheads
- 5 WF dishwasher
- 6.5 IWF clothes washer
- Title 24 design requirements for hot water
- 1,600 ft<sup>2</sup> MWELO compliant landscape
  - 650 ft<sup>2</sup> of turfgrass using WaterSense labeled SSBs
  - 950 ft<sup>2</sup> of low water using plants with drip irrigation











# **A Potential WaterSense Labeled Home**



Results will vary from home to home based on size, climate, and features. Sample home:

- San Bernardino, CA
- 2,400 ft<sup>2</sup>, 4-bedroom home
- 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> lot

- WaterSense labeled toilets
- 1.2 GPM WaterSense labeled lavatory faucets
- 1.5 GPM kitchen faucet
- 1.8 GPM WaterSense labeled showerheads
- Efficient hot water distribution
- 3.5 WF ENERGY STAR certified dishwasher
  - 3.8 IWF ENERGY STAR certified clothes washer
  - 1,600 ft<sup>2</sup> MWELO compliant landscape
    - 100% low water using plants with drip irrigation
    - WaterSense labeled WBIC
    - System installed and commissioned by a professional certified by a WaterSense labeled program

Certification requirements largely agree in this instance – but substantial differences could occur in how builders/verifiers relate to certification and efficiency requirements









# **For Your Consideration**

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- Is there an opportunity to incentivize WaterSense labeled homes in your area?
  - e.g., provide authority to build, reduce tap fees, provide rebates
- The new structure provides flexibility a utility could accept the EPA threshold or require a more aggressive savings target
  - e.g., a HERSH2O score of 60 rather than 70.
- There is an analog for ENERGY STAR Home programs in CA where local programs may add additional requirements to respond to state requirements or local priorities
- Water efficiency programs would benefit from using an existing certification and oversight structure
- Builders would benefit from national program recognition and marketing materials.
- Follow up with WaterSense to learn more.

## EPA Water Score - Improve Water Use at Existing Multifamily Properties



- Benchmarking tool using the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Platform
- For multifamily properties with 20 or more units
- Takes indoor and outdoor water use into consideration
- May want to approach property managers to encourage use of Portfolio Manager and the Water Score to help them manage water.
  - They may have a greater motivation to address water because they pay the bills
- WaterSense has resources to help identify opportunities to save water and improve their scores



Water Efficiency Management Guide Bathroom Suite





For the year ending May 2017, this building used 198 gallons of water per square foot. Here's how that compares to similar buildings nationwide:



About this Score

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Score is generated by the ENERGY STAR\* Portfolo Manager\* loci and supported by Water Sense. The Score offens a 1 - 100 measurement of how efficiently this property uses water, compared to similar properties nationwide, when normalized for climate and operational characteristics. Lewin more at away eps gov/WaterSense.





This scorecard was generated from EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool.

#### VERIFICIATION (Optional)



### Use of Portfolio Manager and EPA Water Score

- > 500k properties track energy use with Portfolio Manager (~64k are multifamily)
- Numerous municipalities require reporting of energy (and water) through PM
- Water Score approach consistent with the ENERGY STAR Score – modified for water where appropriate
  - Statistical evaluation of measured whole building resource (water) use
  - Normalize for weather and operation
  - Provide a meaningful peer comparison
  - Drive reductions in resource (water) use

- Approximately 40k multifamily properties are currently receiving a Water Score
- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Green Mortgage Programs for multifamily using the Water Score
- Some local/state benchmarking requirements
- Focused use by SCV Water has seen water savings exceed their estimates

https://www.epa.gov/watersense/ water-score-multifamily-housing



## How to Use the Water Score



SCV Water in Santa Clarita, CA is using the Water Score to work with several of their multifamily property customers

- Need 12 months of water use
- Building location
- Building size
  - Floor area
  - Number of units
  - Total number of bedrooms
- Irrigated area



Watch their session in 2021 WSI webinar (talk begins at the 1 hour 10 minute mark) https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2800696223640893451



# **Interested in Learning More?**



- Want to know more about the score and how you might be able to use the Water Score to target your programs?
- WaterSense is looking to engage with utilities with interest and ability to do some data analysis
- We are also looking to understand what resources and tools would be helpful for utilities and property managers
- Follow up with WaterSense to learn more



# **Influencing Consumer Behaviors**

# **Key Insights for the Brand**



- Consumers make behavior changes when the change is **personally relevant and meaningful** to them.
- In order to create long-term market transformation, we need to change the way people think and feel about water.

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- Right now, many consumers know that saving water is the right thing to do, but they are lacking the personal **motivation** that will cause them to take action.
- WaterSense can provide this emotional relevance by helping consumers realize that small individual changes do make a difference and
- WaterSense is the **trusted resource** that can help make **saving water easy**.
## **Reaching Consumers**

- We're for Water umbrella platform
- What do we want people to do?
  - Understand importance of using water efficiently
  - Look for products with the WaterSense label
  - Adopt water-efficient behaviors
  - Do their part/be their best
  - Join their neighbors
  - See WaterSense as a trusted resource









### **2021 Monthly Themes**

January	February	March
Pledge to Save Water at Home All Year Stay connected to your conservation goals this year. Join thousands of others taking the '7m for Water' pledge and resolve to save water in 2027.	Love Your Yard While Using Less What's your yord personal Find the right strategies for a water-smart kindscope that fits your lifestyle.	Fix a Leak Week Take the 10-Minute Chollenge for Fix a Leak Week to reduce water waste at home. FixALeak Week March 15-21 WorldWaterDay March 22
April	May	June
Celebrate Spring With a Spinkler Sprace-Up Start your spring cleaning with a sprinkler sprace- op for on efficient impation system and water savings?	Create Your Better Bathroom Celebrate Remodeling Month by transforming your bathroom with fistures that are attractive, functional, and efficient.	WaterSense Accomplishments Continue to Show Commitment WaterSense partners connected with consumers and businenses to ochieve water savings in 2020



### **2021 Monthly Themes**

July	August	September
Water Wiser for Smart Irrigation Month      User Control of Your      User Control of Y	Learn the ABCs of Water Savings Saving water isn't rocket science. Learn how WaterSense labeled products make conservation simple: MinordWaterWeek August 23-27	Plant the Seeds for a Water-Smar Landscape Non-shead for a water-smart landscape by choosing native plants adapted to your area's climate.
October	November	December
Get Energized to Save for Energy Action Month Installing WaterSense	Thanks to WaterSense Partners The WaterSense program's water-saving success is made possible by the more than 2,000 partners!	The the Season for Water Savings Make spirits bright with water and energy savings provided by WaterSense labeled products.



### **Primary Consumer Campaigns**



### Fix a Leak Week

- Challenge: Easy to fix leaks may waste up to 1 trillion gallons of water a year
- Focus: Encourage consumers to find and fix household leaks
  - Check for leaks (e.g., silent toilet leaks)
  - **Twist** faucet valves and tighten pipe connections
  - **Replace** old plumbing fixtures and irrigation controllers with WaterSense labeled models
- Timeframe: Annually during 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March (March 15-22, 2021)
- Partners hold events throughout the U.S. and Canada







## Fix a Leak Week Promo Materials

Variety of materials that include different themes – most are customizable

- Social media outreach
- Graphics and other materials
- Video and Kids' activity tools
- Tools to help plan events
- Templates for proclamations, media releases
- Bill stuffers, dye cards, post cards











### **Spanish Promotional Material**

- Worked with Fort Worth Water and to create new culturally relevant materials
- Loteria card game (in English too!)
- "Collectible" information cards can be used for game play or on social media & websites
- + Other outreach material





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### **Chinese Too!**



Some Fix a Leak Week and other outreach products have been translated into Simplified Chinese too (thanks to our partner, the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)









# Fix a Leak Week Events across the U.S. and Canada 2017-2020



## **Sprinkler Spruce-Up**

- Challenge: Irrigation systems are often scheduled to water when people are not outside, so they don't see problems
- Focus: Encourage homeowners to check their irrigation system before the watering season
- Timeframe: Usually May, but anytime in spring
- Follow four simple steps: inspect, connect, direct, and select
- Materials include:
  - Trade articles to landscaping publications
  - Video
  - Consumer articles
  - Widget
  - Social media posts

### Your Lawn

Go With A Pro To Be Sprinkler Savvy INAPSI-With warmer weathtre open on, pur even be geling scale to here up provide register system to return your indexups to its former giver. Before you get started, remember that winthe excited pipes to broken sprinkler heads. This type of demans can creatly in lete of









### **Smart Watering**

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Focus: Remind customers to change their irrigation practices with the weather or get controllers that will do the thinking for them

Timeframe: Anytime Materials include: bill stuffers, brochures, social media posts



### Water-Smart Landscapes

Challenge: Consumers believe a water efficient landscape is ugly and usually made up of cactus and rocks (xeriscaping = zeroscaping)

Focus: Reassure consumers that a water-smart landscape can be beautiful and healthy Timeframe: Anytime









### **Your Better Yard**

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Focus: Meet homeowners where they are – show them how they can have the yard that meets their lifestyle and also save water by using water-smart products and practices. Timeframe: Anytime Materials include: bill stuffers, brochures, social media posts



## More Outdoor DIY





- Focus: You can do it yourself!
- Many tools encourage homeowners to undertake checks of their irrigation systems to ensure they are functioning properly
- Resources also encourage landscape maintenance practices that can help save water



## When in Drought

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- Focus: Encourage consumers to reduce water use and follow directions of their local utility
- Timeframe: When in drought
- Materials include:
  - Video
  - Bill stuffers (English/Spanish)
  - Door hanger
  - Facts and tips
  - Case study
  - Presentation
  - State fact sheets
  - "When in Drought" article for placement





## **Shower Better**



- Focus: Educate consumers on the connection between energy and water
- Timeframe: Anytime, but some focus during Energy Action Month in October
- Can look to Energy utility and plumber co-promotion to incentivize WaterSense labeled showerheads
- Materials include: available:
  - Animated video, Bath hack video
  - Infographics
  - Bill stuffer
  - Radio PSA
  - Media outreach templates
  - Brochures
  - Kids' learning resource
  - Widget





### Your Better Bathroom

- Focus: Let consumers who want to refresh or remodel their bathrooms know that they can look to the WaterSense label to get style with the added benefit of water savings.
- Timeframe: Anytime, but some focus during October (Nat'l Kitchen & Bath month) and May (Nat'l Home Remodeling month)
- Materials include:
  - Bag stuffers
  - Bill stuffers
  - Social media
  - Sample article
  - Sample web content



### Remodel Your Way to a Dream Bathroom

You've always wanted that perfect babycom. Distinctive follows. Sheek inner. The latest styles and colors

Well, here's where that dream begins. Follows with the WaterSense label can transform a betwoom from merely remodeled to absolutely refined.

A polished brass faucet can bring a touch of European style. The lines of a square showerhead can make your morning soutine a post-modern experience. And even a simple black made faucet can add a dramatic contrast against a while the backdrop.

Add one of the best things about a bethroom with WeterSense labeled Tokures? A sevings of nearly 10,000 gallons of water every year, at prices that range from tessonable to more reasonable. Look for the WaterSense tabel to make that dream

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For more information, visit epa.gov/watersense.





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### **Bath Hack Videos**







### Short - all < 60 seconds</li>

 All on EPA YouTube WaterSense Playlist Simple step-by-step videos to complement campaigns

WaterSerne Bath Hatk #3

YOUR LEAKY

REPLACE

TOILET

FLAPPER



### Fun Bath Hack Social and Handouts







The manage brought is provide therefore a partnering program accessibility the U.S. Composition Protected Agency

### WaterSense for Kids

Teaching kids good habits when they are young can last a lifetime and they are often good ambassadors for reaching other members of the household



family of four uses every day in the United States? Not 50 gallons, not 100 gallons, but 400 gallons! You

could take up to 10 baths with that much water-but who would want to do that? Fortunately, there are

many things we can do to save.

Meet Flo. She's our WaterSense spokesgallon and a big hit with adults and especially children. She is available to come to events to support your WaterSense programs, initiatives, campaigns, etc.





Grade Level: 3-5

Watershed, water uses, drinking water sources, water efficiency, wastewater

Goal: To help students understand the connections between the source of the water they use; the ways their water use habits affect the environment and human health and ways to reduce their impacts by pledging to take steps to use water more efficiently



Students thirsty for knowledge can learn a little "watersense" at school or home. Learn more ....





### Community-Based Social Marketing Campaign Planning







### Creativity and Flexibility are Keys to Success



• Conservation professionals always need to be thinking about new ways to engage with the public

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- During the COVID-19 pandemic, many partners had to change the way they engaged with the public
- WaterSense met with partners to learn how they changed their programs during the pandemic
- Many found the new approaches to be more successful than their older approaches and will look to maintain them in the future!
- The partner tool describes lessons learned, tips, and provides some tools that partners can use for their own programs



### Using Water Efficiency Programs to Meet Other Utility Priorities

- The Covid-19 pandemic also heightened attention on issues associated with the ability of customers to afford water bills
- WaterSense met with partners to learn how have included water efficiency efforts in their utility customer assistance programs
- WaterSense is developing a tool that partners can use to develop or enhance their programs based on tips and lessons learned from other partners

direct installs contractor rebates incentives education bill reduction retrofits plumbing repair tax status water bill plot programs. Fix a Leak Week senior services energy program partnerships multifamily outreach income qualification leak identification nonprofit partners immigrant services tollat sensors weatherization add-ons flow meters AMI major leak repair

### Assistance That **Saves**

How WaterSense Partners Incorporate Water Efficiency Into Affordability Programs



DRAFT





### **Program Success through 2019**



### Partners Make It Possible

Watersenia,\* a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency dates works collaboratively with companies. organizations, and communities to encourage resoundon. in maturacturing and support subsidiable jobs for American workers. Since 2006, the WaterSense label has made it easy for consumers to find high-performing. water efficient products. Millions of Americans are saving water, energy, and money by installing. Watertiense labeled products in homes and businesses.

#### WaterSense Labeled Products



8,255

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The first wiscetteres abeled products hit. store-shelves in 2007 Since liten, more printed town have served the WaterSeries soll and the bhailsurber of WaterSenial Industrial incodels, continues to prime.

84,000

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4.4	trillion	gallons of wate saved since 200	er 6!
			1016
		2017	,
		******	
		******	
		666666 DIII	on
		Street 201	in.

That's nearly the water used in 6 months by all U.S. households!



\*\*\*\*\*

### and saving consumers



#### WaterSense has more than organizational partners.



and rearly 3,000 irrigation pros certified by WaterSense labeled programs

> 2010 for small st (Floridio) Water Partnenible # City of Planc (Texas) + Opper-San Gabriel Velley (California) 2 Planicipal Water District Athens-Clarke County (Georgia) Public Utilities Department + City of Charlottanollis (Virginia) + Clinus County (Ronda) Utilities + Codit County (Seorgia) Water System + Hetropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District + American Standard, Part of LODI, + Deits Fascet Company + Sonorea-Marin (California) Saving Water Partnership KB Monte The second

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## **Partners Make Savings Possible**

- WaterSense would not be successful if not for its more than 2,000 partners
  - Manufacturers design and create products to meet specs
  - Retailers/Distributors get products on shelves
  - Builders construct water-efficient homes using products
  - Certification providers inspect and label homes
  - Professional certifying organizations who train irrigation professionals to help homeowners water more efficiently
  - Promotional partners spread the word
    - Water utilities, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and home builder associations





## **Working Together**



We share mutual goals – get consumers to use water efficient products and practices

We each have strengths and roles to play

Working together creates opportunities and amplifies our message

How we see EPA's role –

- Bring together seemingly unrelated organizations to achieve a common goal
- Reach broader audience through multiple organizations
- Lend credibility to an issue
- Leverage resources across organizations for greater impact



CANADA Edmonton Calgar Cancol 4 SARTYA Great Plain NITI Francisco Promotional Gulf ad Manufacturer Widdliged. Eavona Retailer/Distributor CUBA Builder Mestico City. Professional Certifying Port-au-Prince • Organization

### More than 2,000 WaterSense partners (worldwide)

As of February 2021

Cardbaran



#### Legend

WaterSense Partners by Region

### WaterSense in California

- 315 Partners in California
  - 155 state/local gov't & water utilities ۲
  - 77 manufacturer, 35 retail/distributors
  - 19 NGO/trade associations
  - 17 builders
  - 12 irrigation PCOs
- 2020 WaterSense partner award winners
  - Sonoma-Marin SWP (2), Big Bear Lake W&P, Irvine Ranch WD, City of Sacramento, Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD, Placer County WA, Municipal WD of Orange County, Santa Clarita Valley WA, G3 Green Garden Group





## Learn from and share with other partners

- WaterSense Partner Site includes a section where partners can share what they're doing
- Bi-monthly webinars include partner
  presentations
- Partner Pipeline and The WaterSense Current newsletters
- Partner of the Year Awards recognizes
  outstanding partners





Share your experiences! Learn from others! Check out the WaterSense in Action success stories





Welcome to the WaterSense partner website! Use the resources in this site to promote water efficiency across the country, starting in your community or company.

### Calendar of Events

Tools



July 27, 2021: WaterSense Partner Webmar

### Popular Tools and Materials



Partner Outreach Tools and OF THE

New: Earth Day Tips and Puzzles for 10dt New: Remote Possibilities Virtual Planning Tool

New! Your Better Yard Campaign Tools

New Year-Round 10-Minute Challenge to Find Leaks

### What WaterSense Brings – Tools and Resources



lookfor



The most boring way to harm the environment.









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Water Sense

#### Shower Better Month Messaging and Facts

October is Energy Action Month, and the perfect time to encourage consumers to save energy, water, and money by showering better. Showering is one of the leading ways Americans use water in the home. But to many consumers, the shower represents the all-important "me time." It's an escape from the outside world where they can wake up, wind down, or get ready to tackle the day. So what if there was an even better way to shower? Luckky there is, thanks to WaterSense labeled showerheads. You can help homeowners "shower better" during October or anytime, by sharing facts about the money, water, and energy savings they can realize by installing WaterSense labeled showerheads, all while enjoying superior shower performance.

#### Messaging for WaterSense's Shower Better Month

About 25 percent of consumers surveyed identified water-efficient products as one of the top three features they want most when building a new home. 'Whether consumers are remodeling a bithroom, building a home, or moving into a new one, you can help them shower better with WaterSense labeled models. The following messages can help you communicate to consumers the level of comfort, coverage, and cost savings they can achieve with WaterSense labeled showerheads, during Energy Action/Shower Better Month in October or all year long.

- Wasting water wastes energy! Inefficient showerheads not only waste water, they waste energy used to heat that water. But every time you take a shower with a WaterSense labeled showerhead, you can save energy—equal to the amount of electricity it takes to light a 60-wat light bulb for 8 hours.
- The power of savings. By replacing a showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model, the average family can save more than 2,900 gallors of water each year—the amount if takes to wash more than 70 loads of laundry. A WaterSense labeled showerhead can also save the amount of electricity it takes to power the average family's home for 13 days and reduce their annual water and energy costs by more than \$701





### ...and more



### IMAGINE

YOUR KIDS.

RUNNING

THROUGH THE

#### WATER SPRINKLER.

MINUS THE WATER.



We after the computer press addressingly makes up to R pillons of outer every day. But there is outerlang on can dat had you fan wreple witer serving actives, ald that will ge along may increasing an alreast tomic (and presider) would in the future. Like to have more? This www.epages/to an terms









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1. Reemplace una ducha antigua con una

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cada vez que ve su recibo de agua?

We're for

Water









Does your tollet have a sherit leak? Drop the attached dya tablet into your tailof's tank and wait 10 minutes. If the dire shows up in the boul, you have a leak. that can probably be fixed by replacing a work-tolled Europer Don't Repet to Rush afterwards to remove any leftener due. Learn how to get a hundle on leaks at work application barries.



Inefficient alaring methods and systems

Curb your water wastel

## There is Strength in Numbers - Join us!



- Become a WaterSense partner it's free!
- Gain access to and knowledge from a network of partners across the country
- Earn national recognition for your work
- Recruit new or work with existing
  WaterSense partners
- Promote WaterSense labeled products
- Adopt irrigation certification programs and encourage irrigation professionals to get certified
- Continue to educate your friends, families, and consumers about the importance of water efficiency and WaterSense





### **For More Information**

look for

- Website: <u>www.epa.gov/watersense</u>
- Email: <u>watersense@epa.gov</u>
- Toll-free Helpline:
  (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367)





Facebook.com/epawatersense



We also have content on EPA's Flickr, Pinterest, and YouTube channels