Information Item: Water Efficiency Grant Program Update 2022-2024

Brian Davis, Principal Engineer

Environment Committee: January 11, 2022
Water Efficiency Grant Program

- Funded through Minnesota Session Laws 2015, 2019, 2021
Grant Activities Completed

- Over 7,000 devices replaced
Grant Activities Completed

• Over $1.1 million rebated
Grant Activities Completed

- Over 107 million gallons per year saved
Excellence in Strategic Collaboration Award

• In 2021, the Metropolitan Council won its first WaterSense Award from the Environmental Protection Agency
Community Input to Improve the Program

• Survey Monkey
• Seven questions
• Sent to 52 people from 38 participating Water Efficiency Grant Program communities
• 32 responses = 61.5% response rate!
• Let’s see what communities want
Community Challenges to their Water Efficiency Grant Programs

- Pandemic-related factors
- Marketing issues
- Other (please specify)
- Staffing shortages
- Rebate doesn't include all...
- Rebate is too small

Percentage distribution:

- 0%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%
- 60%
- 80%
- 90%
- 100%
What Items Should Be Included In The Next Water Efficiency Grant Program?

[Bar chart showing percentages of preferences for different items, with the highest preference being Weather-based Irrigation, followed by Toilets, Residential dishwashers, Soil moisture sensor-based, Residential clothes washers, Irrigation system audits, Irrigation spray sprinklers, Commercial clothes washers, Flushing urinals, and Flushometer valve toilets.]
How Should The Program Be Changed?

- Additional items for...
- Smaller city match...
- Larger Met Council...
- Smaller or no match from...
- Easier reporting...
- A 'floor' or minimum leve...
Will Your Community Apply for the 2022-2024 Water Efficiency Grant Program?
Has Your Program Been Successful?

- Very Successful
- Somewhat successful
- Neither successful
- Unsuccessful
Community-Sourced Changes

• Add dishwashers and soil moisture-based irrigation controllers
• Met Council match increased to 90%
• City match decreased to 10%
• Eliminate the requirement of homeowner contribution
  – This increases the equity of the program
Water Efficiency Grant Program

- $1,000,000 available July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024
  - For municipalities which are served by a water supply system
  - Maximum grant amount: $50,000
  - Minimum grant amount: $5,000
  - Requires matching amount: 10% municipality, 90% Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Council Grant Amount</th>
<th>$15,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipality Match</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipality Grant/Rebate Program Total</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Water Efficiency Grant Program Timeline

• Environment Committee: January 11
• Announce Program: January 17
• Application Deadline: March 4
• Grant Decisions Complete: March 31
• Environment Committee: April 12
• Council Approval: April 27
• Grants Awarded: April 29
Questions

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