The Met Council created the water efficiency grant program in 2015 to help growing communities reduce water consumption and future infrastructure costs.

Cities and townships served by a municipal water supply system can receive grants between $5,000 and $50,000 to reduce costs for residents, commercial properties, and government facilities that purchase and install replacement water-efficient products.

This next cycle will set aside $1.1M for the traditional program and $400K to support an equity-based water efficiency program. 41 communities are participating in the traditional program.
Total Water Efficiency Grant outcomes through Dec. 31, 2023

- 2,965 clothes washers replaced
- 6,137 toilets replaced
- 4,757 irrigation controllers replaced
- 723 irrigation spray sprinkler bodies replaced

- 174 irrigation audits
- 750 residential dishwashers replaced
- $1.75 million total rebates
- 207,800,000 estimated annual gallons saved
Program evaluation

Through an equity-lens

- Who is benefiting?
- Who is not benefiting?
- How can we get more inclusive participation?
- Can we make this program even better?
Program participation is high in suburban communities

- Program originally targeted communities on groundwater-sourced public water supply.
- People who have the resources (time, money, etc.) can connect with program.
- Not many participants in areas of concentrated poverty.
Two-Part Pilot Project with SPRWS

Toilet Efficiency Program

• $100,000 in funding
• No-cost toilet replacement in apartment buildings in Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs) where renters pay water bill

Leak Audit Program

• $150,000 in funding
• Purchase and installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) collectors in Areas of Concentrated Poverty to detect leak issues much faster
Two-Part Pilot Project with SPRWS

Toilet Replacements

- 242 toilets replaced ($413/toilet = parts + labor)
- Estimated savings of 3.4 million gallons/year

- 40 gallons/day/toilet replaced
- Estimated savings: $7/unit/month = $84/year
Two-Part Pilot Project with SPRWS

Installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure

- SPRWS originally installed 12 AMI collectors (Met Council grant covered ~7 collectors)
  - Approximately 12,000 accounts
- SPRWS expects to complete collector rollout by end of 2024
  - Final count expected to be 30-32 collectors (30,000-45,000 accounts)
What can we do to further this effort?

1) Share your thoughts.

2) Join us to co-create an equity-based water efficiency program in Fall 2024.

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=i_a_3SpIc0WB4P74FWpP0AViicp6ZtJqyVQEH9txylUME0yRjc5NTVER1I0Wk5SSIc2M1I2Q1JMTS4u
Thank you

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