Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Program

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Jen Kostrzewski

Program purpose

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.

Results

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
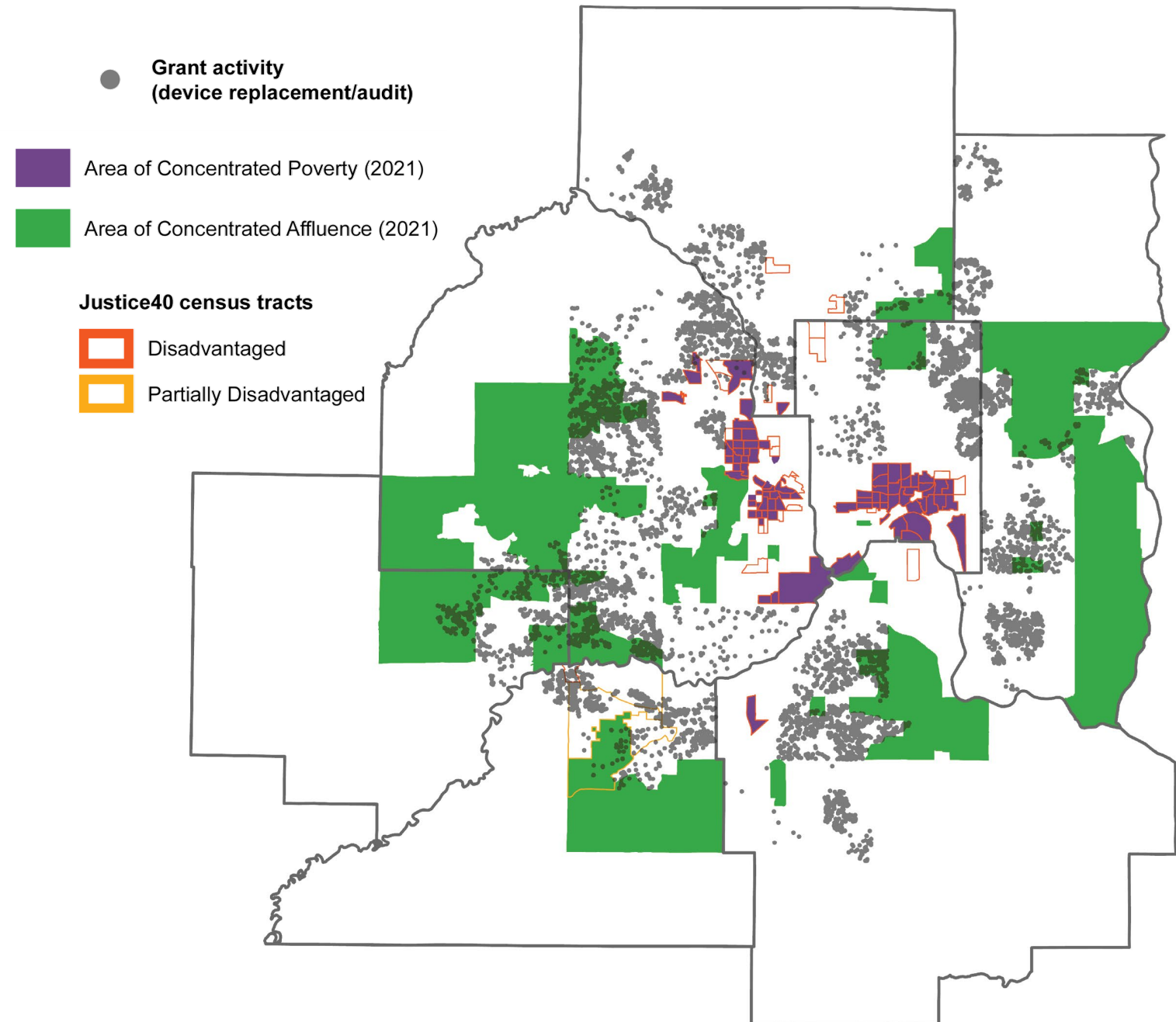
750
residential dishwashers replaced

$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?

Exploratory Spatial Analysis of Recipients

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.

Grant activity
(device replacement/audit)

Area of Concentrated Poverty (2021)

Area of Concentrated Affluence (2021)

Justice40 census tracts

Disadvantaged

Partially Disadvantaged

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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
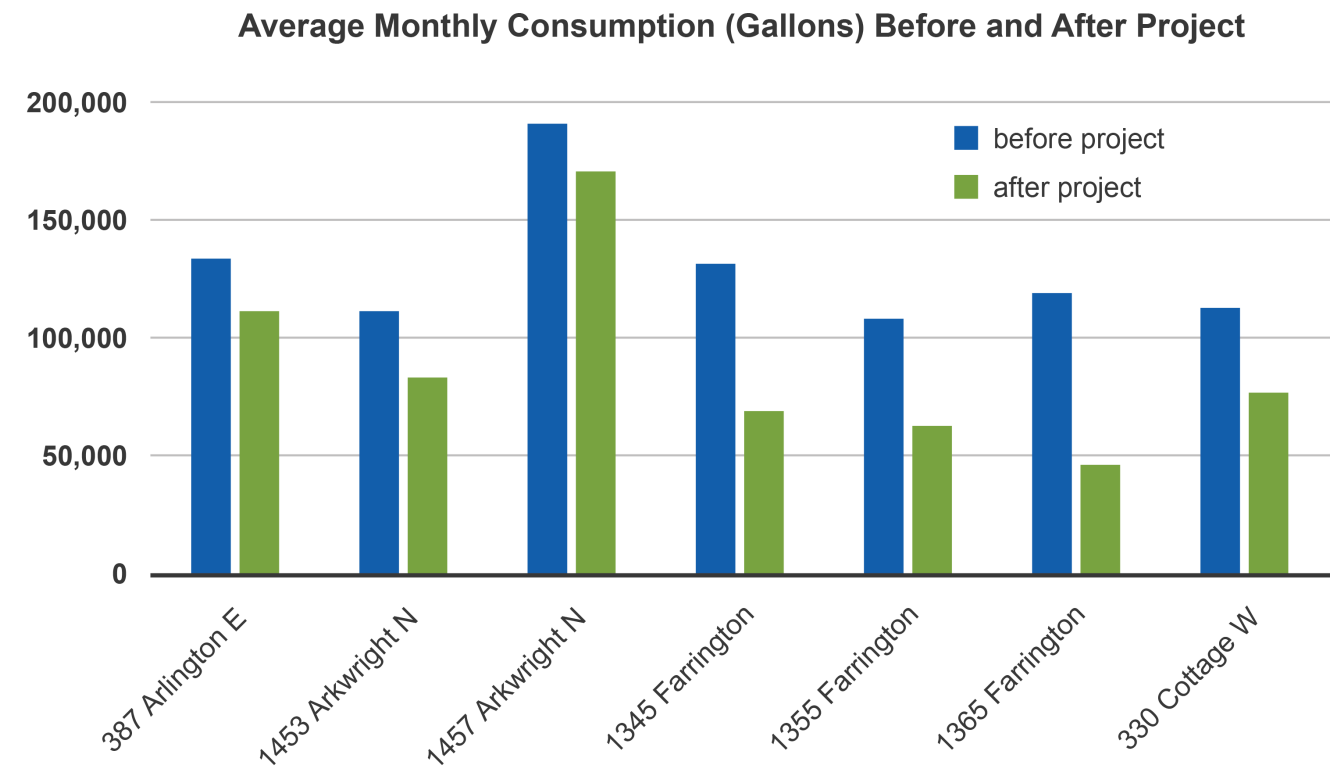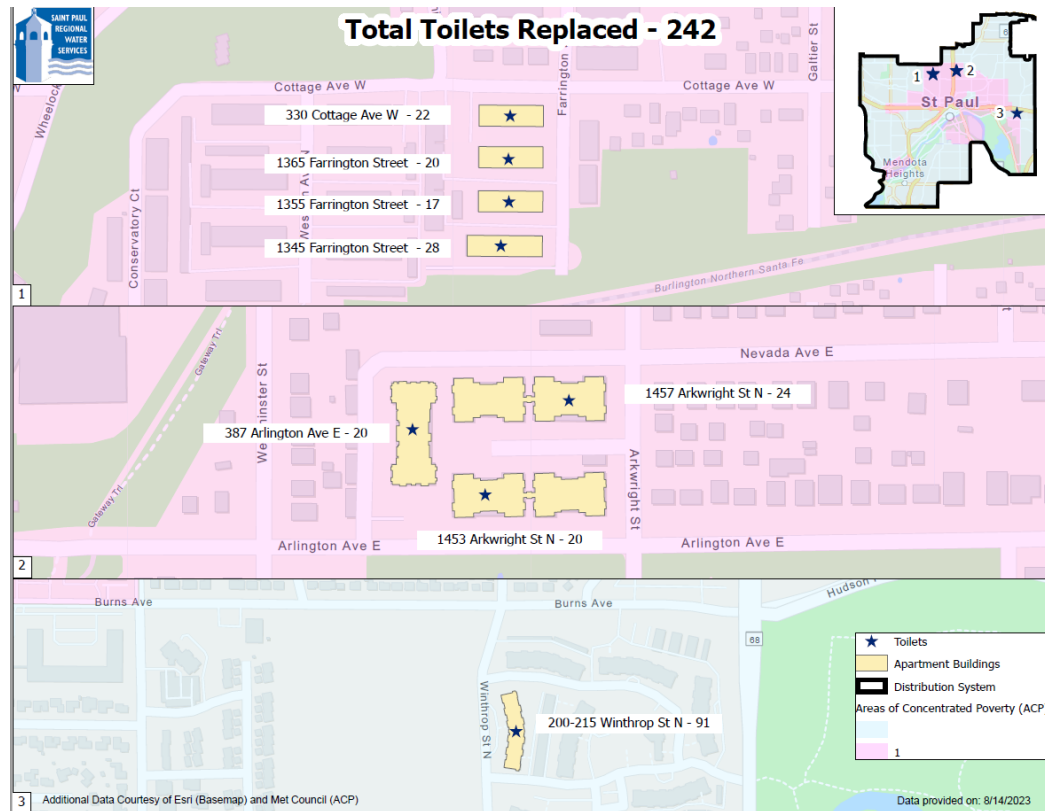
Leak Audit Program

- $150,000 in funding

- Purchase and installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) collectors in Areas of Concentrated Poverty to detect leak issues much faster

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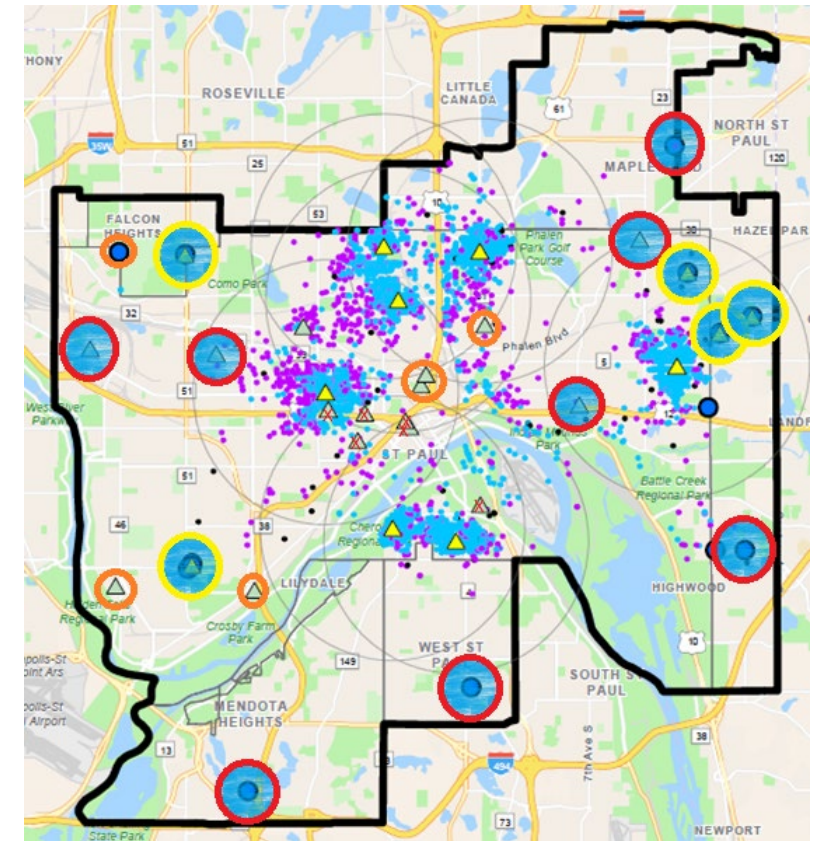# Two-Part Pilot Project with SPRWS (1/2)

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

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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)

●	Actual V3 Reads from Installed Collectors
●	Actual V4 Reads from Installed Collectors
🔵	Proposed Collector Locations January 2024 + Anticipated Area of V3 Reads
🔵	Locations of September 2023 Installed Collectors + Anticipated Area of V3 Reads
🟠	Potential Additional Collector Locations Tanks or PHA
🟨	Proposed Area for Register Replacement Prioritization in 2023-2024 Starting in NW Corner (Lauderdale). Working East to 35E and South to 94. Skipping all Blue areas (V3 Already Caught by Current Collectors)

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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_3SpIc0WB4P74FWp
P0AViIcIp6ZtJqyVQEH9txylUME0yRjc5NTVER1I0Wk5SSlc2M1I2Q1JMTS4u

Thank you

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