Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Program
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.
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 (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
Two-Part Pilot Project with SPRWS (2/2)

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_3SpIc0WB4P74FWpP0AVlclp6ZtJqyVQE9txylUMEOyRjc5NTVER10Wk5SSlc2MiI2Q1JMTS4u
Thank you

Jen Kostrzewski
Assistant Manager, Water Planning and Policy
Jennifer.Kostrzewski@metc.state.mn.us

Henry McCarthy
Senior Environmental Scientist, Water Resources
Henry.Mccarthy@metc.state.mn.us