



WaterSense: Helping to Reduce Water Demand

Veronica Blette, WaterSense Program U.S. Environmental Protection Agency February 2010



### Why WaterSense?

### Our vision

 All Americans will understand the importance of water efficiency and take positive 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 and wastewater infrastructure costs





# What's Special About WaterSense?



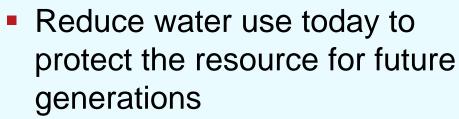
- High efficient and performing
  - Products must offer equivalent or superior performance while using about 20 percent less water than conventional models
- A label with integrity
  - Third-party bodies test and certify that products meet WaterSense criteria
  - Backed by the credibility of EPA
- Smart use of taxpayer dollars
  - Manufacturers absorb research, testing, and branding costs
  - Licensed certifying bodies certify the products and police the label's use
  - EPA leverages national network of partners to promote WaterSense





## Program Benefits







 Help mitigate the devastating effects of drought



 Save energy used to pump, heat, and treat water

 Minimize water pollution and help maintain the health of aquatic ecosystems





# Utility Benefits can be Significant

## The most cost effective way to find the next gallon of water may be through water efficiency

- May allow delay implementation of costly alternatives to expand capacity
- Potential reduction in physical size of surface water alternative facilities or volume of ground water pumping
- Reduction in peak demands, which reduces size of the least utilized portion of capacity
- Decreased treatment and operating costs associated with lower demand
- Savings to individual homeowners in both water and energy bills and possibly wastewater charges







- For WaterSense products shipped in 2008
- Water Savings
  - 9.4 billion gallons
  - \$55.6 million in water & wastewater cost savings
- Energy Savings
  - Electricity saved 1.7 billion kWh
  - GHG Emissions Avoided 705,000 metric tons

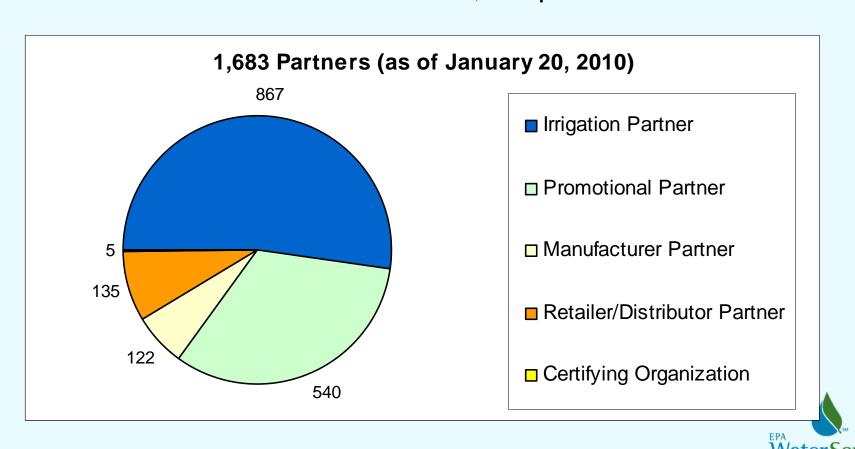






### Partnership Grows Nationwide

#### WaterSense now has more than 1,600 partners nationwide!





# WaterSense Partners in the Colorado River Basin

| Partner Type      | AZ | CA* | со | NM | NV | UT | WY | Grand<br>Total |
|-------------------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|
| State Government  | 2  |     | 1  | 1  | 1  | 2  |    | 7              |
| Local Government  | 8  | 1   | 4  |    |    | 5  |    | 18             |
| Utility           | 15 | 5   | 16 | 5  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 47             |
| Trade Association |    |     | 1  |    | 1  |    |    | 2              |
| Distributor       |    |     | 1  |    | 1  |    |    | 2              |
| Retailer          |    | 2   | 2  |    | 1  | 1  |    | 6              |
| NGO               | 4  | 1   | 6  | 2  |    |    |    | 13             |
| Other             | 1  |     |    |    |    |    |    | 1              |
| Irrig Partner     | 35 | 57  | 57 | 6  | 17 | 10 |    | 182            |
| Total             | 65 | 66  | 88 | 14 | 23 | 20 | 2  | 277            |

<sup>\*</sup>Estimated based on proximity to CRB





### WaterSense Labeled Fixtures

- Toilets
  - 470+ labeled models
- Faucets and faucet accessories
  - 1600+ labeled models
- Urinals
  - Final specification released in October 2009
- Showerheads
  - Final specification to be released in March 2010
- Find Products
  - www.epa.gov/watersense/product\_search.html







## WaterSense New Homes Program

- Launched in December 2009
- First national new home labeling program for water efficiency
- Criteria for indoor, outdoor, and homeowner education
- Works with other green building programs - homes can receive multiple certifications
  - ENERGY STAR®, LEED, NAHB, EarthCraft, etc.
- Inspected & certified by independent third parties
- Recoup initial investment in as little as six years







# New Homes Specification: Indoor

#### Required items:

- Water service pressure maximum 60 psi
- Leak prevention measures
- WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures
- Other water-efficient plumbing fixtures
- Efficient hot water distribution system

#### Optional items must meet efficiency criteria, if installed:

- ENERGY STAR qualified dishwasher or clothes washer
- Evaporative air conditioners
- Water softeners
- Drinking water treatment systems





## New Homes Specification: Outdoor

### Front yard + improved-upon areas

- Landscape
  - Water budget or 40% turfgrass allocation
  - Vegetated slopes
  - Mulching requirements
- Other water features (if installed)
  - Pools/spas
  - Ornamental water features
- Irrigation system (if installed)
  - Design
  - Audit
  - Scheduling



Healthy, beautiful landscapes that allow the homeowner to save water





# Schedule for Evaluating WaterSense Products

|                         | Complete                                  | 2010/2011   | 2011 and Beyond   |  |  |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Irrigation              | Professional<br>Certification<br>Programs | Irrigation Controllers Moisture Sensors Drip/Micro Technology   | Irrigation Sprinklers   |  |  |
| Residential<br>Plumbing | Toilets<br>Faucets                        | Showerheads Water Softening Systems                             | Water Treatment Systems   |  |  |
| Commercial Plumbing     | Urinals                                   | Pre-rinse Spray Valves  | Flushometer Valve Toilets Food Disposals                            |  |  |
| Other                   | New Homes                                 | Potential Commercial<br>and Institutional<br>Program Activities | Autoclaves Glassware Washers Additional Professional Certifications |  |  |



# Collaborating for Water Efficiency

- Success of programs hinge on collaboration between utilities, retailers/distributors, and manufacturers
  - Utilities help create demand; manufacturers, retailers, and distributors help utilities meet that demand
- Many utility partners are working with manufacturer and retail/distributor partners
  - Promoting WaterSense and tips on water efficiency
  - Offering incentives to customers that replace older, inefficient toilets with WaterSense labeled toilets

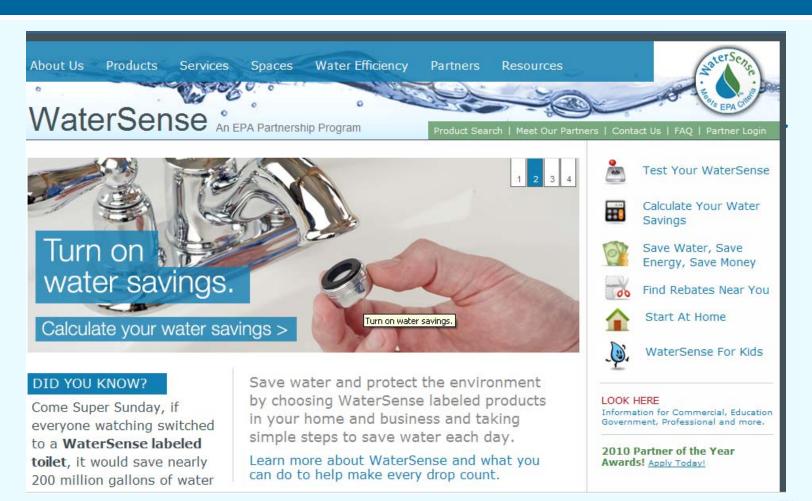






### Consumer Education Campaign

WaterSense









- What: Week to remind Americans to check their homes and irrigation systems for leaks
- When: March 15-21, 2010
- Where: Nationwide
- Why: To save water!
- How: Fix a Leak Week Tool Kit

### Goals:

- Educate consumers on the importance of fixing leaks
- Raise awareness about WaterSense
- Drive traffic to WaterSense web site













Partner tools for Fix a Leak Week 2010







### What Can You Do?

- Become a WaterSense partner
- Recruit new WaterSense partners
  - Irrigation professionals
  - Promotional partners, retailers, manufacturers, builders
- Promote WaterSense labeled products
- Adopt irrigation certification programs
- Educate your customers about importance of water efficiency and WaterSense





### Partner Resources

- EPA has developed sector-specific tool kits to assist partners in promoting the program and water efficiency
- Access is limited only to partners



### Partner Resources

Explore the WaterSense partner tool kits below. WaterSense has developed materials specific to each partner type, including signage, online tools, brand guidance, and many more resources tailored to your needs. Also, check out resources available to other WaterSense partner types to brainstorm how you can collaborate in the future.



#### Promotional Tool Kit

For Utilities, Communities, States, and Other Organizations



#### Labeling Tool Kit

For Manufacturers and Certifying Organizations



#### Sales Tool Kit

For Retailers and Distributors



#### Irrigation Tool Kit

For Certified Irrigation Professionals



#### **Utility Recruiting Tool Kit**

For Those Recruiting Prospective Utility Partners



# Other EPA Activities Focused on Water Efficiency

- Focus: Better water management at system level
  - Water loss control management and leak detection
  - Promoting metering of water and appropriate rates
- Focus: Supporting alternative sources
  - Water reuse guidelines
  - Guidance on ASR injection well practices
  - Beneficial use of stormwater/rainwater capture
- Focus: Water-friendly design
  - Promoting low impact development, water efficient building standards and innovative stormwater management practices
- Focus: Funding infrastructure improvements
  - State Revolving Fund programs and associated green project reserve requirements



### More Information

### WaterSense Information

- Web site: <u>www.epa.gov/watersense</u>
  - List of products
  - Partnership information
  - Educational fact sheets and resources
- E-mail: <u>watersense@epa.gov</u>
- Toll-free Helpline: (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367)





Every drop counts.

