

ADOPTING MORE EFFICIENT PLUMBING STANDARDS: Connecticut Can Save Water and Energy and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Updating Connecticut's plumbing fixture efficiency standards will save water and energy statewide and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Currently Connecticut follows federal standards adopted in 1992.



Connecticut Can Join Other States That Have Done This

Ten states have already adopted standards that go beyond the federal standards: California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New York, Texas, Vermont, and Washington State. All of these states have adopted the same standards as the U.S. EPA WaterSense labeling program, which are 20% more efficient than the federal standards.

How much water can be saved?

Connecticut could save 27% more water from adopting new plumbing fixture efficiency standards, generating by 2050 an additional 1.98 billion gallons of water saved per year.

- 1.98 billion gallons could provide water for about 25,500 homes for a year

How much energy can be saved? How much greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced?

Water and wastewater utilities could collectively save an additional 7.85 gigawatt hours per year by 2050, and reduce total annual CO₂ equivalent emissions by an additional 4,258 tons.

- 7.85 gigawatt hours could power over 700 homes for a year
- 4,258 tons of CO₂ is equivalent to the carbon dioxide generated by more than 900 cars annually

What changes would be need to be made in the law?

Flow rates or flush volumes would need to be updated for the following fixtures:

- **Showerhead** flow rates will be updated from 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) to 2.0 gallons per minute and showerheads will be required to be WaterSense® labeled.
- **Residential lavatory (bathroom) faucet** flow rates will be updated from 2.2 gpm to 1.5 gpm and will be required to be WaterSense® labeled.
- **Residential and nonresidential toilet** flush volumes will be updated from 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) to 1.28 gpf and must be WaterSense® labeled.
- **Urinal** flush volumes will be updated from 1.0 gpf to 0.5 gpf and must be WaterSense® labeled.
- **Public restroom faucets** will be required to be equipped with outlet devices which limit the flow rate to 0.5 gpm instead of 2.2 gpm.

Other Benefits

- Tying the requirements to the WaterSense label means the fixtures are tested for performance and measured for 20% reduction in water savings in the US EPA WaterSense Labeling Program.
- These additional water and energy savings will help Connecticut achieve the goals set by the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

For additional details on efficient plumbing standards and Watersense, contact: Mary Ann Dickinson (maryann@a4we.org)