

Creating Jobs through Water Efficiency



The economic recovery package includes much-needed funding for drinking water infrastructure and water efficiency programs. This funding can begin to rebuild the nation's water supply infrastructure which for too long has been strained by rapid growth and lack of investment and will be further challenged by a changing climate.

States and cities will be receiving water infrastructure funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in coming months. Communities will need to be prepared to spend this money quickly in a way that will create jobs and begin to build a 21st century water infrastructure. Water efficiency is the most cost-effective way of accomplishing those goals.

Water Efficiency Will Stimulate the Economy

Water efficiency programs are cost-effective, long-term, sustainable investments that create good American jobs while providing solutions to our water supply needs. They are ready-to-go in most cities or water utility districts within 90 days.

- Investment of \$10 billion in water/energy efficiency programs would boost U.S. GDP by \$13 to \$15 billion and employment by 150,000 to 220,000 jobs.
- Replacing 50% of the nation's roughly 100 million older (pre-1993) model toilets with low-flow toilets would create 50,000 jobs, including \$2 billion in plumber wages, and \$5.8 billion in revenues for toilet manufacturers. It would also save as much as 360 billion gallons of water annually and 1.9 billion kWh of electricity per year in reduced energy for water treatment.
- Case Study: In DeKalb County, GA, county investment in water efficiency will generate between \$74 million and \$148 million worth of skilled, well-paying new jobs in the plumbing industry.

A 21st Century Water Supply Strategy



Water efficiency is the most cost-effective source of clean, reliable water supply. Water efficiency costs as little as \$0.46 per 1,000 gallons saved, while dams can cost \$4,000 per 1,000 gallons of capacity. Outdated appliances and fixtures waste a great deal of water. If all U.S. households upgraded their water fixtures and appliances, water supply would be increased by more than 8.2 billion gallons per day.

Water efficiency has added energy savings benefits as well. According to the EPA, water supply and treatment facilities consume 56 billion kilowatt-hours per year. Saving water saves energy, reducing energy costs for utilities and less greenhouse gas production. The long-term strategic, economic, social, and environmental benefits of water efficiency programs also make them strong investments in the nation's future.



Building more dams and reservoirs does not address the root problem- water is finite and we are not using the water we have wisely. Per gallon, dams cost up to 8,500 times more than water efficiency investments. Dams can also lose tremendous amounts of water through evaporation. **Communities must invest in efficiency first.**

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