

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2015-035  
REQUIRE PURCHASE OF EPA WATERSENSE CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield has been proactive in pursuing sustainable practices; and increasing the use and availability of environmentally preferable products, services and distribution systems that protect human health and the environment; and,

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve both energy and water use reductions and cost savings through building and facilities management; and,

WHEREAS, efforts to address energy and climate issues provide an opportunity to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency and quality of life; provide environmentally healthy and energy efficient public buildings.

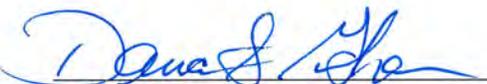
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

Products such as bathroom sink faucets, toilets, flushing urinals, showerheads, irrigation controllers, and commercial pre-rinse spray valves will be EPA WaterSense Certified products.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 3rd day of March 2015.

ATTEST

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

VOTE: Y GRAHAM Y DELONG Y LUDSCHER Y NAKASIAN  
Y PETERSON WHITE Y POWNELL Y ZWEIFEL



# City of Northfield

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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res. 2015-035, **Version:** 1

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**City Council Meeting Date:** March 17, 2015

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
City Administrator

**From:** Jasper Kruggel, GISP, Project Manager

**Subject:**

Adopt Purchasing Policy Requiring U.S. EPA Water Sense Certified Products

**Action Requested:**

The Northfield City Council approves the attached Resolution, requiring the City of Northfield to use EPA WaterSense certified products on projects starting after the date of adoption.

**Summary Report:**

To help save energy and water, the attached Resolution would require that all City purchases of water-using products would meet the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense certification. These rating systems ensure that energy efficient products are purchased for our needs.

Products affected by this resolution include:

- a) Bathroom Sink Faucets and Accessories
- b) Toilets
- c) Flushing Urinals
- d) Showerheads
- e) Irrigation Controllers
- f) Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves

It is noted that this is not asking or requiring the City to replace any existing, operable fixtures or equipment. By adopting this resolution, FUTURE projects and purchases would be subject to this provision. Currently, as an existing best practice, most recent projects including the police station and city hall remodel have strived for water conservation fixtures and features as part of the project scope.

This resolution also satisfies the requirement of GreenStep City Best Practice 15-4, fostering the City's goal of becoming a step 3 GreenStep City before the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference.

**Alternative Options:**

Council may choose not to adopt the Resolution.

**Financial Impacts:**

Although fixtures that are EPA WaterSense Certified cost slightly more than non-certified fixtures (varies by product), the cost savings is seen over time through the efficiency of the product.

**Tentative Timelines:**

If adopted, future projects starting after 3/17/2015 will be required to evaluate and purchase EPA WaterSense Certified products.



Introducing the

# WaterSense® Label

It's easy for consumers to make smarter choices when it comes to using water. By looking for the WaterSense label, consumers can purchase products that use 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models. Consumers can save water, energy, and money on utility bills by using WaterSense labeled products, services, and water-efficient practices.

By using water-efficient products and practices, consumers save natural resources, reduce water consumption, and save money. In order to realize these savings, consumers need to be able to identify products, new homes, and programs that use less water while performing as well as or better than standard models.

The WaterSense label was created as a symbol for high-performing, water-efficient products and water-saving programs. WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is making it easy to find and select water-efficient products with a label backed by independent certification.

In order to use the label, an organization must sign a WaterSense partnership agreement. Among other things, the partnership agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of EPA and the partnering organization, as well as proper use of the label on products, on packaging, and in marketing and other promotional materials. Products that bear the WaterSense label meet EPA's criteria for water efficiency and performance.

WaterSense labeled products have been independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models. WaterSense also offers a label for new single-family homes and multi-family units that include WaterSense labeled products, efficient hot water delivery systems, water-smart landscapes, and other water-efficient features.

In addition, WaterSense labels professional certification programs that highlight water-efficient irrigation technologies and practices.

Whether you're looking to replace older bathroom fixtures or upgrade to a more water-efficient irrigation system, choose WaterSense labeled products or professionals certified by a WaterSense labeled program. WaterSense labeled product models are available at a wide variety of price points and styles. In many areas, utilities offer rebates and vouchers that can further lower the cost.

For more information or a list of WaterSense labeled products, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

