



## Executive Summary

City Council Workshop

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> Met Council Water Efficiency Grant Program
<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Kevin Larson, Assistant City Administrator
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b> Discussion

The Met Council Water Efficiency Grant Program helps cities reduce water use across the metro area. The program supports both technical improvements and behavior changes that lead to more efficient water use.

### Purpose

The program focuses on reducing water use in residential, commercial, and municipal properties.

### Eligibility

Residents, businesses, and cities connected to a municipal water system are eligible to participate and who replace specified water-using devices with approved devices that use substantially less water.

### Eligible Activities

#### Indoor water use

- Toilet replacement
- Clothes washing machine replacement
- Dishwasher replacement
- Showerhead replacement
- Faucet or faucet accessory replacement

#### Outdoor water use

- Irrigation system audit
- Irrigation controller replacement
- Irrigation sprinkler body replacement
- Drought-tolerant turf conversion (municipal projects only)

### Program Funding

Cities design and manage their own rebate or grant programs. Funding is shared between the Met Council and the City:

- 80% funded by the Met Council
- 20% funded by the City

The maximum total program budget is \$75,000. For example, the Met Council may provide \$60,000, and the City would provide \$15,000.

### Optional Low-Income Assistance

Cities may apply for an additional \$10,000 to support low-income households. Eligible residents can receive full cost coverage to replace one indoor water fixture (such as a toilet, washer, or faucet) with a WaterSense or ENERGY STAR model. No City match is required for this funding.

### Program Budget Request Example

A	<b>Requested grant amount for residential, commercial, or municipal grant activities (funding from Met Council)</b> (80% of traditional grant program subtotal):	<b>\$16,000</b>
B	<b>Required municipality matching amount</b> (20% of traditional grant program subtotal):	<b>\$4,000</b>
C	<b>Traditional grant program subtotal</b> (sum of Met Council grant amount and required municipality match):	<b>\$20,000</b>
D	<b>(OPTIONAL) Low-income cost assistance requested amount (funding from Met Council)</b> (100% covered by Met Council funds):	<b>\$5,000</b>
E	<b>Total program budget</b> (sum of traditional grant program subtotal and low-income cost assistance funds):	<b>\$25,000</b>

### Discussion

This grant opportunity would be pursued in 2027. Staff will need time to research and develop the program before applying. Staff is seeking Council direction on the following:

1. Is the Council interested in funding and City staff managing this grant program?
2. If so, what level of matching funds would the Council consider appropriate?
3. Would the Council like staff to include the optional low-income assistance funding as part of the application?