

Georgia's Toilet Rebate Program

Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (DDCWSA) received a \$300,000 commitment to offer a rebate program to replace inefficient toilets that use more than 1.6 gallons per flush and exist in homes built in 1993 or earlier. It is estimated that toilets can account for one-third of water use in a home. Small funds here have a large impact: eliminating customer leaks not only reduces water demand, but can save the average family nearly \$100 per year.

Program History

The Federal Energy Policy Act of 1992 mandated that low-flow fixtures using no more than 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) be installed in all homes constructed during and after 1994. Unfortunately, according to the 2005 U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 59% of Douglas County's homes were built prior to 1993.

Those water-guzzling toilets which remain in Douglas County homes built prior to 1994 are the focus of the toilet rebate program offered by DDCWSA. Toilets are now available with as little as 1.28 gallons per flush, which can save the average household 20,000 gallons of water per year. The total project cost was \$300,000, with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund providing the entire amount. A \$50 rebate was offered for installing a replacement ultra low-flow toilet (1.6 gpf), and a \$100 rebate was offered for installing a replacement high efficiency toilet (1.28 gpf). The rebates issued in this program were limited and were issued on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum of two issued per applicant.

Stop Flushing Your Money!

Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority



Toilet Replacement Rebate Program Coming Soon!

Starting October 15, 2009, qualifying homeowners can receive a rebate of up to \$200 for upgrading to water-efficient toilets if their home was built prior to 1994.

Did you know over 30% of indoor residential water use occurs through the toilet?

Image Credit: Douglasville-Douglas County Pamphlet



E C O S

This factsheet was developed by the Environmental Council of the States. It is one of ten factsheets on how states have used flexibility in the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds to pursue innovative projects. To view the other factsheets and information on other state projects visit www.ecos.org.

Published in March 2016

CWSRF: A Flexible Tool for Advancing Clean Water

Funding Mechanism

The Georgia Clean Water State Revolving Fund provided Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority with a \$300,000 commitment for this Toilet Rebate Program. The commitment consisted of a 40% loan at 3.0% interest along with a 60% principal forgiveness amount. This loan qualified for financing under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) financing terms.

Replicability

Rebate programs can take a variety of forms and are not limited to toilets. Rebates programs can be developed for faucet replacement, showerhead replacement, service line replacement or any device where water can be saved.

Results

This project replaced approximately 2,507 toilets within the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority water system. Approximately 2,278 toilets were replaced with high efficiency (1.28 gpf) toilets and approximately 229 toilets were replaced with ultra low-flow (1.6 gpf) toilets.

There were 10 times as many high efficiency toilets rebated versus ultra low-flow toilets rebated. The \$50 increase in rebate was a sufficient incentive for most customers to invest the additional up front funds in the more efficient toilet. Customers clearly saw the additional benefit of reduced water and sewer usage and took the step to save additional water and sewer costs.

It is estimated that toilets can account for one-third of water use in a home, replacing a 3.5 gallons per flush toilet with a 1.6 gallons per flush can save a family of four from 11,000 to 15,000 gallons of water and sewer charges per year. The toilets replaced could potentially reduce water and sewer distribution, treatment and collection by approximately 37 million gallons per year for the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority.

The toilets replaced could potentially reduce water and sewer distribution, treatment and collection by approximately 37 million gallons per year.

More Information

For more information on this program contact:

Jason Bodwell at Jason@gefa.ga.gov or 404-584-1129 or
Andrew Rose at arose@ddcwsa.com or 770-920-3841

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement X5-83395401 to the Environmental Council of the States. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.