

## **Historical Perspective on the Water Efficiency Research Committee Project List**

New water saving technology must be properly researched and tested before it can be recommended for use in the field. As such, the AWE Water Efficiency Research Committee maintains a list of research projects that require funding to be implemented. This project list was originally developed based on past interaction that occurred within the AWWA Water Conservation Division's Water Efficiency Technologies and Programs committee. That committee developed and maintained a listing of what were proposed research efforts involving the independent research needs of water purveyors developing and optimizing their demand management efforts. The goal of the proposed research was to provide consistent and reliable third party testing results that water purveyors and technology developers could employ to promote quantifiable and durable water savings.

The original project that led to the development of the committee research project list was the Maximum Performance (MaP) testing for ultra-low flush toilets (ULFT's) and high-efficiency toilets (HET's). This project and associated funding evolved through a meeting of parties interested in funding this research in 2002. Through an informal process, funding was secured from multiple entities, provided to a quasi governmental agency as a pass through, and research was completed. The MaP testing results led to the development of better-performing toilet fixtures and has been used in the development of the WaterSense labeling program specification for HET's. All toilet manufacturers in the North America now participate in this type of independent third party testing of their products.

An expanded project research list was developed as a result of the success of the MaP funding and research and a number of projects were subsequently implemented through various funding parties. AWE and the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), was essential. Therefore, the project list remains a part of the discussion at the AWWA Water Efficiency Technologies and Programs committee, but when funding is solicited from the various available sources, the project is legitimized through these two organizations.

Therefore, the AWE's role (through our committee) is to develop a consistent research agenda that identifies specific research projects that can impact water use efficiency and seek funding partners and grants. Additionally, projects that are funded outside of this mechanism, but are third party independent tested, are also added to the project list for tracking purposes.