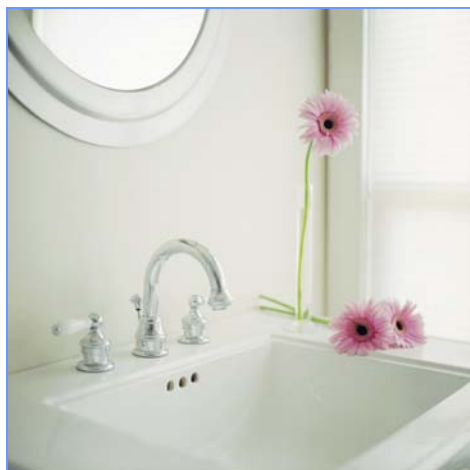


Rahway Housing Authority Meter Project

Situation



During 2006, the Rahway Housing Authority updated Section 8 housing with low flow and water efficient fixtures. Since then, the Rahway Housing Authority has kept meticulous details on water use (pre-and post-installation). The Rahway Housing Authority reports that seventy-six apartment units throughout eleven buildings are currently serviced by one meter.

When a leak occurs or a tenant does not report a running toilet and the monthly bill "spikes," it is difficult and time consuming to isolate the problem. New Jersey Water Savers, along with the Rahway Housing Authority, will install flow water

meters (sub-meters) in each of the eleven buildings to reduce the time needed to find a potential problem by 90% and to minimize water use and costs.

Action

During the Fall of 2010, the Rahway Housing Authority will provide New Jersey Water Savers with a summary of the low flow upgrades previously installed under a HUD grant and the estimated water savings achieved. This information is particularly valuable as it shows actual achieved savings over multiple years.

Following the installation, the Rahway Housing Authority will provide two reports on the success of using the sub-meters and documentation on how this technology has helped the Rahway Housing Authority save water. The reports will document any leaks detected and will provide an estimate of the water savings achieved due to quicker identification of the problem areas. New Jersey Water Savers will work with United Water of Rahway to collect and compare water use pre-installation and post-installation.

Rahway Housing Authority Meter Project

Impact

This research has the potential to provide New Jersey Water Savers with the ability to assess the methods for encouraging adoption of indoor water saving practices including educational programs that focus on behavioral changes of renters (e.g., shorter shower times, using full loads of laundry, reporting water leaks to the housing authority management, etc.). This is especially significant since United Water of Rahway reports that the average resident uses 40 to 130 gallons of water at home.

Rahway residents living in public housing will be recruited to participate in educational programs, such as water saving workshops. The education will be developed to focus on the importance of water savings and about behavioral changes they can implement in their homes to save water. The information will be available in English and in Spanish.

New Jersey Water Savers Partnership

New Jersey Water Savers is a partnership between the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This partnership was created to provide leadership to promote water conservation throughout New Jersey. For more information on our partnership efforts, visit us at www.water.rutgers.edu.

