

Department of Environmental Protection

Water Planning Office

Water Conservation-Efficiency Strategy

The Water Planning Office is currently undertaking steps toward the development of a water conservation-efficiency strategy that will comprehensively address and promote water conservation in the Commonwealth. The strategy will be developed consistent with the requirements of Act 220 of 2002 and the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement of 2005.

Current Efforts

Water Conservation Technology Center – DEP is developing the center to serve as a resource for water consumers, as required by Act 220, and to coordinate other water conservation efforts with the Great Lakes initiatives, where practical.

Coordination with River Basin Commissions – DEP is contracting the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, working in partnership with the Delaware River Basin Commission, to develop the key components of the water conservation technology center. DEP has formed an internal workgroup to help facilitate the process and to advise the river basin commissions.

Integration into Existing Planning Requirements – DEP is identifying best methods and processes for integrating water conservation efforts into the State Water Plan and encouraging further integration at the municipal planning level through financial incentives and program assistance.

Next Steps

Convene a Workgroup – DEP will: (1) meet with leading water conservation experts to discuss national programs and successful initiatives that contain effective incentives for consumer participation; and (2) convene a workgroup comprised of key participants, including the Critical Water Planning Areas subcommittee, DEP, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Delaware River Basin Commission, water suppliers, water consumers, etc. (Target: March 2007)

Discuss Merits of Developing Statewide Efficiency Standards – DEP will organize high-level discussions among department executive staff and leading national water supply organizations to discuss the merits and opportunities for designing and developing statewide efficiency standards for water consumption. (Target: August 2007)

Consider Developing Legislation on Efficiency Standards – DEP's internal water conservation workgroup will discuss the outcomes of these efforts, and if the idea of developing water conservation-efficiency standards is favorable, the Water Planning Office will begin the process of crafting legislation for consideration of the Deputy Secretary for the Office of Water Management. (Target: September 2007)

Convene a Water Conservation Advisory Board (Optional) – If deemed beneficial, DEP will convene a Water Conservation Advisory Board to help refine proposed legislation and assist in its passage in the legislature (Board to be comprised of current Workgroup participants).