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Facilitating the Implementation and Installation of New Water Efficient Technologies

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#### Anticipated Water Shortages

- While water is a renewable resource, it is also a finite resource
- According to the US EPA, 38 States will experience non-drought related water shortages by the year 2015



- Extent of state shortages likely over the next decade under average water conditions
- White & light gray states expect some shortages

#### Regional Water Impacts

 Anticipated growth is generally highest in states with anticipated future shortages and high per capita water use and where water resources are already strained



# Utilities, Manufacturers, Engineers and the Government Respond

- Manufacturers and entrepreneurs new innovations; better performing fixtures and fittings, more efficient appliances and irrigation equipment, water re-use systems
- Utilities \$\$ are being spent; providing incentives for new product development and to encourage installation
- Plumbing engineers are embracing water efficiency technology and helping to find solutions to implementation problems – more efficient system designs
- Government The US EPA develops the WaterSense Program, add water usage requirements for appliances in the Energy Star program



## **Code Acceptance Issues**

- Manufacturers and entrepreneurs invest \$\$ in product development and marketing of products only to get "red tagged" at installation
- Utilities Unsure of which technologies to recommend and provide incentives for
- Plumbing Trades May be unfamiliar with newer technologies and unsure about systemic implications
- Government Reluctant to develop incentive labeling programs for products or systems that have not demonstrated code compliance



# **Code Acceptance Issues**

- Code Inspectors Do not want to reject water efficient technologies but require information and data on new technologies before they can allow installation
- Ensuring health and safety paramount issues
  - Prime directive of codes
    - Clean, safe drinking water
    - Clear identification of non-potable water sources
    - Separation of potable and non-potable systems
    - Efficacy of plumbing system performance
    - Safe and reliable mechanical systems
- For some technologies little or no history or data is available
- How do we go about codifying worthy emerging technologies?



- The IAPMO Group: Bringing together industry experts of diverse interests to address the codification of green technologies
  - Water efficiency consultants
  - Utilities
  - Plumbing trade representatives
  - Contractors
  - Manufacturers
  - Engineers
  - Code inspectors
  - Plumbing and mechanical disciplines

- Two committees formed
- C.A.U.S.E. Committee
  - "Committee for the Awareness and Understanding of the Sustainable Environment"
  - Oversee the development of materials, such as informative appendices, handbooks or other support documents that provide guidance, recommendations and common practices related to sustainable construction.
  - Evaluate various sustainability activities or initiatives for currency and relevance.
  - Provide the membership with information and education on sustainable construction activities.

- Two committees formed
- C.A.U.S.E. Committee (continued)
  - Coordinate sustainability initiatives among the various industry organizations and stakeholders.
  - Work with strategic partners to share information and to identify and implement cooperative efforts, such as joint publications and training.
  - Review and evaluate local and national sustainability legislation and regulations.
  - Identify opportunities for further research and study.



Two committees formed

- Green Technical Committee
  - Identify opportunities to make the Uniform Codes more sustainable
  - Support comprehensive code changes that improve sustainability
  - Develop stakeholder consensus among committee members on emerging technologies
  - Develop a Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement



#### The Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement

- Will be a separate document from the Uniform Plumbing and Mechanical Codes and will establish requirements for green building and water efficiency applicable to plumbing and mechanical systems.
- Will serve as an adjunct to the Uniform Codes or ANY of the plumbing and mechanical codes used in the US.
- Will serve as a repository for provisions that ultimately will be integrated into the Uniform Codes. The Green Supplement is a logical transitional home for green requirements until they mature and are ready to be included into the code
- Will serve as a resource for progressive jurisdictions that are implementing green building and water efficiency programs.
  - Enforcement aid for existing green ordinances
  - Model for jurisdictions implementing green ordinances.

The Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement

- Serve as a resource for code officials, plumbers, contractors, engineers and manufacturers in designing, installing and approving green plumbing and mechanical systems.
- Be written in mandatory language and in a format similar to the Uniform Codes.
- Maintain IAPMO philosophy of an all-inclusive, turnkey document to minimize the need for additional codes and standards.
- Coordinate and resolve conflicts among other green building and water efficiency program requirements.



- The Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement
- Where applicable, the Green supplemental code will establish:
  - Minimum sustainability provisions "Raise the bar"
  - Health and safety provisions to ensure green practices are safe and reliable
  - Minimum performance, design, installation and maintenance requirements.
- Target completion date for the Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement: January 2010.







