This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com
TALES FROM TWO ADOPTING ORGANIZATIONS

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Outline

1. QWEL Overview
2. San Diego County Water Authority
3. Utah State University Cooperative Extension
4. We want you!
QWEL OVERVIEW

- Carrie Pollard
QWEL Overview

• Affordable local approach to reducing landscape water demand

• Knowledge in water efficient and sustainable landscape practices including water management and preservation of other valuable resources
QWEL Overview

• The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership is the parent Professional Certifying Organization (PCO) for QWEL

• EPA WaterSense labeled Professional Certification Program for Irrigation System Audits

• Recognition from the U.S. EPA WaterSense program with five awards in four years
QWEL Overview

15 professional certifying organizations in 4 states
QWEL Overview

• 10 years since program launch
• More than 2,000 certified professionals
• It’s time for an update:
  • Logo and branding
  • Marketing materials for professionals and homeowners
  • Curriculum
  • Program management tools
SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

• Jana Vierola
SDCWA Program Implementation

• Approved May 2015 as part of Board’s emergency drought response package
  • Second phase approved September 2016

• First phase January-December 2016
  • 15 class series completed

• Second phase January-June 2017
  • 10 class series completed
QWEL Training & Certification

- 25 class series completed
- 639 participated
- 568 completed program
- 79% earned certificate
QWEL Highlights

• 99% felt the class provided them with skills and knowledge to manage landscapes more efficiently

• 98% rated the class as “good” or “excellent”

• Piloted Spanish-language training classes

• 173 entities represented
  • Suppliers, contractors and public organizations
Ongoing Implementation

- Recommend continuation of program
  - Consistent with regional “how-to resources” to advance long-term water efficiency
  - Fills important gap in regional training resources
- $165,000 funding available from grants
  - Additional $10,000 is recommended from operational funds
- RFP in process; will seek Board approval this fall
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

• Candace Schaible
Northern Utah

Key Partners

Utah State University
- Professional Certifying Organization (PCO)
- Instruction

Utah Nursery & Landscape Association
- Registration
- Graduate Management

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
- Marketing
- Host/Facilitate

Water District Throughout the State
- Host/Facilitate
Northern Utah

Three Day Workshop Format

Day 1: classroom instruction
Day 2: classroom instruction & outdoor audit
Day 3: exam
Northern Utah

Lessons Learned

- Engagement
- Create a good team
- Editing will take time
- Recruiting contractors
- Multiple breaks
We Want You!

- Interested in offering QWEL in your area?
- Come and visit us at booth 319

qwel.net
Q & A

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