

(TCAA) Water Management Partnership helps growers transition from traditional seepage systems to more efficient irrigation technologies, achieving water use reductions of up to 60%.

Additionally, SRWMD offers a program that provides cost-share funding for in-line flow meters, incentivizing the long-term adoption of water monitoring technologies to enhance irrigation efficiency. Further, reducing reliance on groundwater through the implementation of rainwater harvesting and tailwater recovery, where feasible, is supported. Adoption of soil moisture sensors, weather stations, and soil health practices further supports conservation in the region. These efforts collectively illustrate how enhanced irrigation efficiency and reduced water use will support long-term resource sustainability.

Florida Water Star Silver Plus

Public Supply water conservation is an important component of any Strategy as it directly affects projected water demand and, therefore, the magnitude of resource impacts. Best management practices, such as efficient plumbing fixtures, efficient irrigation system design, and grouping plants of similar moisture and maintenance requirements can reduce the amount of water applied to residential landscape.

The Florida Water StarSM (FWS) Silver certification program has been identified as a potential conservation program that would be beneficial in achieving the LSFIR MFLs. The FWS Silver certification program includes indoor, landscape, and irrigation requirements to reduce residential water consumption. Utilities have also been including an additional element to their FWS Silver certification program for outdoor use by limiting the provision of water for irrigation to the front and side yards only – which is similar to FWS Silver Plus.

The Districts completed an assessment of the costs, water savings, and benefits of implementing these two programs for all new single-family, public supply customers in the Partnership area beginning in 2030. A FWS Silver certification program, at a 100% participation level, initiated in 2030 would reduce the 2045 public supply groundwater demand of 269.3 mgd by 2.6% or 6.9 mgd at an increased construction cost of \$1,400 per home when compared to traditionally built homes. The increased costs include indoor and outdoor BMPs and inspection costs. A FWS Silver Plus program, at a 100% participation level, initiated in 2030 would reduce the 2045 public supply groundwater demand of 269.3 mgd by 6.3% or 17 mgd with an overall savings in home construction costs of \$1,171 per home due to elimination of backyard irrigation system installation. Customers living in homes built to FWS Silver or Silver Plus standards could potentially save on average \$360/year to \$920/year in potable water and sewer costs.

The Districts recognize that 100% participation is not likely. However, even at an 80% participation rate, an FWS certification program would reduce the 2045 public supply groundwater demand by 5.5 mgd, while an FWS Silver Plus program would reduce the 2045 demand by 13.6 mgd. Therefore, there is a regional benefit to both programs.