

Resolution No. 6

Date: 1/21/2016

City: Las Vegas, NV

NAHB Resolution

Title: Water Conservation
Sponsors: Environmental Issues Committee
Construction, Codes & Standards Committee
Submitted by: Geep Moore

WHEREAS, the nation's growing population and economy have increasing needs for a safe, clean and reliable supply of water;

WHEREAS, accomplishing the nation's water conservation and water use efficiency goals will require action by all water users, including private, commercial, industrial, agricultural and state and federal interests;

WHEREAS, extended regional droughts and inadequate water supplies have pushed state and local agencies to undertake historic water conservation measures, including regulatory restrictions on the housing industry;

WHEREAS, increasing the water efficiency of existing homes represent a much greater opportunity to save water than reducing usage in newly constructed homes across the country;

WHEREAS, wise and efficient water use, both inside and outside the home, such as using high efficiency appliances, xeriscaping, water reuse and rainwater collection, can contribute to water conservation, offer significant financial benefits to both water suppliers and consumers and help ensure adequate water supplies are available for future development;

WHEREAS, conservation tools that provide generic water use guidance, allow for the evaluation and marketing of water efficient products, and facilitate the calculation of home water consumption can supplement and enhance local incentive and rebate programs and allow consumers to make more informed water use decisions;

WHEREAS, various organizations and government agencies are developing and promoting residential water conservation standards and programs, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) promotion of WaterSense, a voluntary water efficiency product labeling program; and

WHEREAS, the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard (NGBS) outlines water efficiency practices that can be followed in new and existing homes to reduce overall water usage,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) support approaches and initiatives that encourage water conservation and efficiency in new and existing structures as long as those programs:

- 1) Are voluntary, affordable and recognize consumer preferences;
- 2) Are sufficiently flexible and include prescriptive options that do not require calculation or experts to apply, and include design guidelines that can be applied independent of a specific home design;
- 3) Include low-cost options;
- 4) Where applicable, recognize multiple rainwater, gray water and landscaping options; and allow water savings at alternative location(s) to be credited to new homes; and
- 5) Recognize that the degree of concern with water supplies and decisions, varies widely across regions and localities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB promote Chapter 8 of the National Green Building Standard as a reference guide for those entities seeking to establish water efficiency programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB support incentives to facilitate early adoption of water saving products and practices, such as those that lead to a reduction in construction fees, conservation tax credit programs, and rebates on efficient fixtures and appliances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB encourage the development and voluntary use of water calculation tools that account for total water consumption both within the structure(s) and the overall property and include both delivered potable water and water from precipitation.

Board of Directors Action:	Approved
Executive Board Action:	Recommends Approval
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Land Development Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction, Codes, and Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
NAHB Remodelers Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Environmental Issues Committee:	Recommends Approval
Sustainable & Green Building Subcommittee of the Environmental Issues Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Multifamily Council Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval

If approved, this resolution will update and replace existing policy: 2004.1 No. 7 Water Conservation.