

Resolution No. 2

Date: 1/29/2021

City: Washington, DC

NAHB Resolution

Title: Water Conservation  
Sponsor: Environmental Issues Committee  
Submitted by: Drew Smith

WHEREAS, the nation's growing population and economy needs safe, clean and reliable supplies of water has prompted interest and actions to curtail domestic water use through both increased efficiency and user conservation, as well as expand reuse and other options to supplement supply;

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, federal action, to date, generally has been limited to setting water use standards for plumbing fixtures and appliances,

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

WHEREAS, increasing the water efficiency of existing homes represents a much greater opportunity to save water than reducing usage in newly constructed homes, which use water more efficiently;

WHEREAS, wise and efficient water use, both inside and outside the home, such as using high efficiency appliances, xeriscaping, collecting rainwater and reusing water, 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, technological advances continue to further the development of water saving devices that perform well, are durable, and meet or exceed consumer expectations;

WHEREAS, design 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) WaterSense, a voluntary water efficiency product labeling and home certification program; and

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

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 and properties as long as those programs:

- 1) Are voluntary, not cost-prohibitive and recognize consumer preferences;
- 2) Are sufficiently flexible and include prescriptive options that do not require calculations or design professionals to apply, and include guidelines that can be applied independent of a specific home design;
- 3) Include low-cost options;
- 4) Where applicable, recognize multiple rainwater, greywater 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 support research on and technical advances in water efficiency and conservation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB support incentives to facilitate the early adoption of water saving products and practices that can 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 and formulas that account for total water consumption both within the structure(s) and the overall property and include both delivered potable water (via utility and/or private well) and water from precipitation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB promote the water efficiency practices in the NGBS as a reference guide for those entities seeking to establish water efficiency programs, and in jurisdictions where water allocations may be limited or restricted on new homes or residential developments, NAHB encourages the development of policies based on Appendix D: Water Rating Index of the *ICC 700-2020* National Green Building Standard®

(as may be amended, revised or clarified periodically), as a means to predict usage and as a basis for establishing guidelines or rules for allocation of water for housing.

*If approved, this resolution will update and replace existing policy: 2016.1 No. 6 Water Conservation.*

Leadership Council Action:	APPROVED
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction, Codes, and Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Custom Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Land Development Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
NAHB Remodelers Action: Recommends for Approval	
State and Local Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Environmental Issues Committee: Recommends for Approval	
Multifamily Council Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval
Sustainability & Green Building Subcommittee of the Environmental Issues Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Energy & Green Construction Codes & Standards Subcommittee Of the Construction, Codes & Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval