Fact Sheet Water Efficient Fixtures and Appliances

Definition

The most common water efficient appliances include dishwashers and clothes washing machines; popular fixtures include toilets, showerheads and faucets. They can simply use less water while yielding comparable performance (e.g. low-flow showerheads).

Strategies used to increase the use of water efficient technologies include:
• Mandates – mandating water efficiency standards for new construction and replacement of old fixtures and appliances; mandating use of water efficient products in government facilities.
• Labeling – certification systems for water efficient products; adding the estimated cost of use, also called the "second price tag," to labels.
• Tax incentives – for purchasing and installing efficient products; for retro-fitting and replacing older fixtures.

How does the technology/practice contribute to climate change adaptation?
Residential conservation efforts can make a strong positive contribution to reducing pressure on water resources.

Reducing water use in municipal systems also contributes to climate change mitigation by decreasing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Water conservation can lead to large savings in the energy used to transport, treat and distribute piped water.

What are the costs and financial requirements?
Establishing a functioning certification process may be costly depending on existing capacity. However, the costs for individual households are generally small and may be fully recovered by water savings over the lifetime of the product.

Status of the technology in Grenada
Water efficient washing machines are sold in Grenada but they are more expensive and are therefore not widely used. The low flow faucets and shower heads are sold but they tend to be more expensive and therefore not widely used. Many of the toilets imported today are 1.5 gallons.

Some hotels have started to replace the existing fixtures ad faucets with water efficient ones.