WaterSmart Software (Booth 9) (/initiative/4Ws5/watersmart-software-booth-9)

Changing the way the world uses water through a world-class customer engagement, behavioral water efficiency and data analytics platform.

Submitted by David Sheridan

Comments

John Grunder   4w, 1d ago   NEUTRAL

This seems like an idea that could be used by the local water suppliers, much like PG&E's smart meter program. If you know how much water you are using each day, and have a way to warn customers of over-usage this should provide a meaningful reduction in water usage. Does Santa Cruz have a smart meter program for its residential and commercial customers?

David Sheridan   1w, 3d ago

Thanks for the comment John. While "smart meters" are a powerful tool that help water (and electricity) users know more about their consumption, the WaterSmart Software program does not require smart meters. All it requires is meter data which more often than not is updated monthly or bi-monthly.

Michael Lewis   3w, 6d ago   PRO

Before any "smart water meter" program can be effective, all customers must have water meters they can read. Apartments and some mobile home parks are "master metered," meaning individual users do not see the meter nor the bill. In the absence of individual metering, there is less incentive, and ability, to conserve.

> **Robert Singleton**   3w, 4d ago
>
> This is really important to note. Any implementation of this system should be accompanied by direct outreach to renters, and, where possible, unit by unit metering. This would probably up the cost of implementation a bit.

Bill Smallman   3w, 5d ago   PRO

I think this idea should be adopted by all agencies as soon as possible. It would help people decide which conservation improvements would work best with their homes.

Fred Martinez   2w, 6d ago

We are talking Santa Cruz, which by the geography is cut off from the world in the means of getting water. Santa Cruz is already the best in conservation.

> **David Sheridan**   1w, 3d ago
>
> You make a great point Fred. Santa Cruz is already a very efficienct community. That being said, the WaterSmart program has been equally successful in efficienct communities such as Santa Cruz as it has in communities less well known for efficiency. Soquel Creek Water District is a very efficient community and the WaterSmart program has been able to help SCWD become even more efficient than it was before.

Heather Lukacs   4w ago

I really like the idea that knowledge will lead to water use reductions. Could you please post links to peer-reviewed academic studies that show this reduction in other places and/or similar examples? Thanks!

> **David Sheridan**   1w, 3d ago
>
> Thanks for the comment Heather. Please see the link in the resources section for an independently funded 3rd party evaluation of the WaterSmart program.

Doug Valby   3w, 6d ago

This will require replacing all the meters in the system at significant cost, unless it is done over the long term replacing each meter one at a time as they reach the end of their useful life.

> **David Sheridan**   1w, 3d ago
>
> Doug, this program does not require replacing meters. It simply requires that meters exist and are read regularly (i.e monthly or bi-monthly). If any part of Santa Cruz is un-metered, that is an issue that needs to be addressed in and of itself.

Robert Singleton   3w, 4d ago

PRO

To me this seems like a no brainer. It's a great program with a really intuitive interface, and it has already been put to good use in Soquel Creek.

Dorah L Shuey   2w, 6d ago

PRO

This is a simple solution that would has a very high benefit-to-cost ratio. It basically saves water through education. It should be easy to see if there is other software of the same type and then do an analyis to see which of the available software packages would be the best one for SC.

Jan Karwin   2w ago

This proposal is worthy of further research and evaluation by the panel of experts.

Jude Todd   4d, 21h ago

PRO

This proposal would provide a clear, useful way for people to evaluate their own water usage -- without installing so-called "smart" meters, which are problematic for many reasons. I think this proposal warrants consideration by WSAC.