



## Draft WaterSense Certification Scheme

Public Meeting  
June 20, 2007

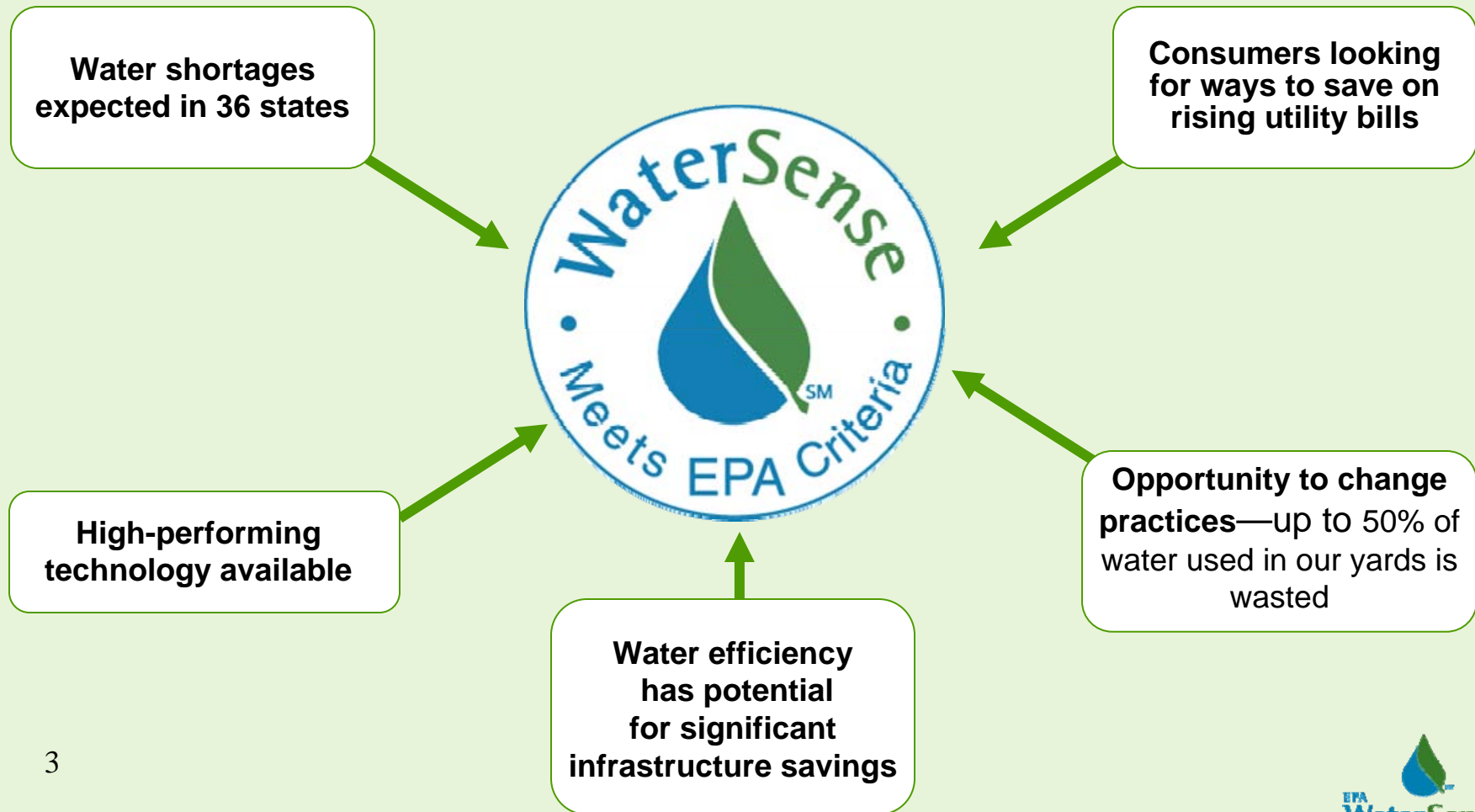


# Meeting Agenda

- Overview of WaterSense
- Product Certification and Labeling Background
- Overview of Draft WaterSense Certification Scheme
  - Scope
  - The Product Certification Body
  - Product Certification
  - Licensing
  - The WaterSense Label
  - Surveillance
- Next Steps

# WaterSense Overview

## Need for Water Efficiency





# WaterSense Overview

## Vision & Mission

### *Vision*

Create an ethic of water efficiency.

### *Mission*

To promote the value of water and help Americans make smart decisions regarding water use and water-using products.

Transform the marketplace by encouraging consumers and organizations to purchase water-efficient products and services.



# WaterSense Overview Philosophy

- Products labeled through WaterSense will:
  - Be backed by the credibility of the U.S. EPA
  - Be promoted through partnerships with utilities, manufacturers and retailers
- To be considered for the label, a product area must be able to:
  - Realize water savings on national level
  - Perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts
  - Be about 20% more efficient than conventional counterparts
  - Achieve water efficiency through several technology options
  - Be effectively differentiated by the WaterSense label
  - Be independently certified by a third party to confirm that the product meets EPA criteria for efficiency and performance
  - Provide measurable results



# WaterSense Overview

## Program Goal & Objectives

- **Program Goal:**
  - Reduce water and wastewater infrastructure costs and conserve water resources for future generations
- **Program Objectives:**
  - Raise awareness about the importance of water efficiency
  - Ensure product performance
  - Help consumers differentiate among products and services
  - Promote innovation in product development
  - Support state and local water efficiency efforts



## Product Certification and Labeling Background

- Process evolved from original draft HET specification
  - Required testing by a “qualified testing laboratory”
  - Limited manufacturer business relationships
  - No oversight or official means of ensuring competent qualified testing laboratories
- In response, EPA Considered
  - Supplier’s declaration of conformity
  - EPA acts as certifier
  - Independent third-party certification
- EPA chose to establish requirements for independent third-party product certification



# Product Certification and Labeling Background

- **Third-Party Certification Benefits**
  - Focuses EPA resources on marketing and specification development
  - EPA is in compliance with National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA)
  - More rigorous, which is good from a marketing perspective
  - Better policing of label and on-going surveillance of products
  - Faster product approval times and no limit on business relationships
  - Increases consistency in product testing





# Product Certification and Labeling Background

- The third-party product certification process is working for High-Efficiency Toilets (HET)
  - Final HET specification was posted in January 2007
  - List of licensed product certification bodies posted in mid February 2007
  - First HETs received certification in early April 2007
  - To date 33 HET models have been certified
  - Expect to see WaterSense labeled HETs on the market in July 2007



# Product Certification and Labeling Background

- The product certification process
  - EPA requires WaterSense labeled products to be certified by an accredited third-party product certification body
  - Manufacturers apply for certification directly to product certification body
  - Product certification body certifies product and authorizes the use of the WaterSense label
  - Product certification body conducts follow-up surveillance and helps EPA ensure proper use of the WaterSense label



# Product Certification and Labeling Background

- Each product certification body is currently approved by EPA
  - Currently ANSI accredited to certify plumbing products
  - Requirements outlined in the program guidelines
  - Approved for each WaterSense specification
    - 5 product certification bodies have been approved for the HET specification
- Ultimately each product certification body will be accredited to certify products to WaterSense specifications
  - Accreditation is conducted by a third-party accreditation organization
  - Accreditation requirements outlined in WaterSense Certification Scheme
  - Accredited for each WaterSense specification
- Licensing Agreement
  - EPA licenses product certification body to certify products and authorize use of WaterSense label



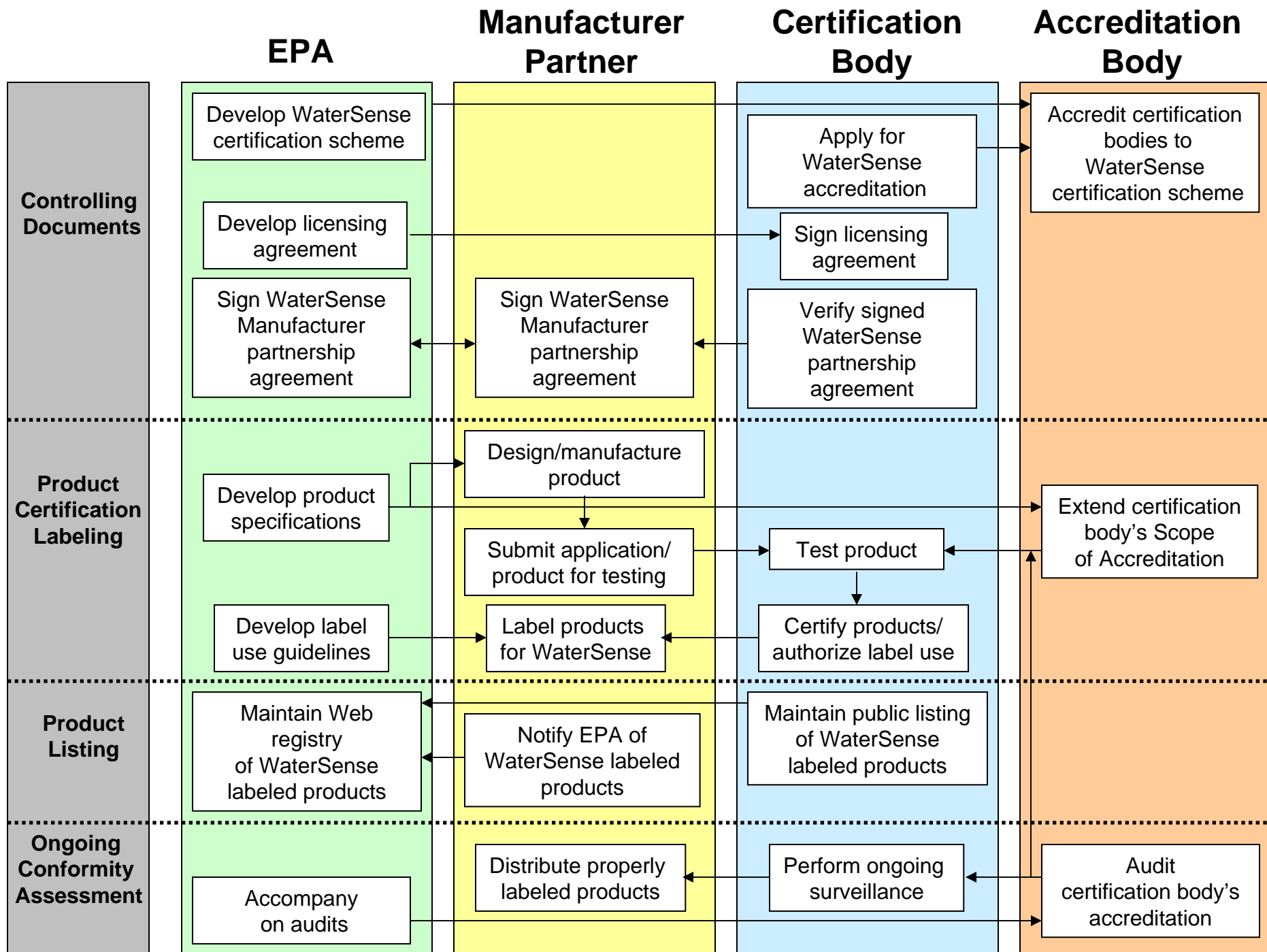
# Product Certification and Labeling Background

- **Accreditation Benefits**
  - Ensure product certification bodies have capability and competence to perform WaterSense certifications
  - Ensure uniform minimum certification requirements among product certification bodies
  - Ensure open process for including product certification bodies accredited by different organizations (ANSI, IAS, A2LA)
  - Process open for public input
- **Accreditation Issues**
  - Accreditation process cannot begin until final specification is developed



# Draft Certification Scheme: Process Flow Diagram

- Parties Involved in WaterSense Certification
  - EPA
  - Manufacturer
  - Product certification body
  - Accreditation organization





# Draft Certification Scheme: Scope

- Specifies minimum requirements for operating third-party product certification to WaterSense specifications and authorizing the use of the label
- Provides interpretations for how to apply ISO/IEC Guide 65, *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*, for WaterSense certifications
- Addresses all processes and services required to make a final product
- Certification requirements guided by the certification scheme, product specifications, and the program guidelines



## Draft Certification Scheme: The Product Certification Body

- The product certification body must be accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 65 to
  - Operate under the WaterSense certification scheme
  - Certify products to WaterSense specifications
- Accreditation shall be provided by an organization that
  - Operates in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011, *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*
  - Offers accreditation services to ISO/IEC Guide 65
  - Is an International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation or International Accreditation Forum signatory
- Product certification bodies are accredited for each WaterSense specification (listed in its Scope of Accreditation)





# Draft Certification Scheme: Product Certification

## ■ Application

- Manufacturers seeking a WaterSense label apply directly to product certification body accredited to the relevant specification
- Product certification body provides application form specific to the product or product category
- Product certification body follows up with manufacturer regarding application status and process



## Draft Certification Scheme: Product Certification

- **Initial Production Inspection**
  - Not required by WaterSense, but can be conducted at product certification body's discretion
  - May include an audit of production process and quality management system
- **Initial Product Testing – Sample Selection**
  - Representative of the model to be certified
  - Made using the components and subassemblies identical to production
  - Made from production tools and assembled using methods established for production run



## Draft Certification Scheme: Product Certification

- Initial Product Testing
  - Conducted in accordance with relevant WaterSense specification
  - Test facilities must demonstrate compliance with ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of calibration and testing laboratories*
- Product certification body may determine how it will conduct initial testing
  - In-House – testing done at the product certification body’s own facilities
  - Subcontract – testing subcontracted by the product certification body to another party in compliance with ISO/IEC 17025
  - On-site – testing conducted at manufacturer’s facility when overseen by product certification body



# Draft Certification Scheme: Product Certification

- **Product Evaluation**
  - Pre-inspection or pre-testing review of the manufacturer's documentation
  - Verification that the manufacturer has a signed Partnership Agreement with EPA
  - Initial production inspection (if required)
  - Product testing in accordance with the relevant WaterSense specification
- **Product Evaluation Report**
  - Provides the manufacturer with the outcome of the evaluation
  - Informs manufacturer if there are gaps in the evaluation that need to be resolved



# Draft Certification Scheme: Licensing

- Licensing Agreement – Between EPA and product certification body
  - Provides conditions for authorizing the use of the WaterSense label
  - Specific to each WaterSense specification
- Licensed product certification body provides EPA:
  - General data on certified products
  - Annual report regarding number of products tested, certified failed, reinstated, and common label misuse issues
  - Notification of label suspensions or withdrawals
  - Permission to accompany accreditation organization on routine assessments of the product certification body's WaterSense related certification operations



## Draft Certification Scheme: Licensing

- Licensing Agreement – Between manufacturer and product certification body
  - Product certification body verifies the manufacturer has a Partnership Agreement with EPA
  - Product certification body provides certification decision to manufacturer and authorization to use the WaterSense label in conjunction with the certified product
  - Product certification body ensures that manufacturer abides by the WaterSense label guidelines



## Draft Certification Scheme: WaterSense Label

- The WaterSense label has a unique identifier for each product certification body
- Product certification bodies ensure the WaterSense label is used in accordance with WaterSense label guidelines
- WaterSense Label may be used on the product or product packaging and by the manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, or retailer in promotional literature about the certified product



## Draft Certification Scheme: WaterSense Label

- Product certification body takes appropriate action against label misuse by manufacturers with certified products
  - Unauthorized, incorrect or misleading use of the certification or WaterSense label - defined in program guidelines and label guidelines
  - Determine when use of label shall be suspended and terms of suspension and reinstatement
  - Determine when use of the label shall be withdrawn – immediately notify EPA and ensure label is no longer used on product
- Product certification body brings to EPA's attention label misuse from a manufacturer without a certified product





# Draft Certification Scheme: Surveillance

- Minimum Periodic Production Inspection and Product Testing Requirements
  - Annual audit of production process and quality management system of each manufacturer of a certified product
    - Verify that production and quality management operation is capable of maintaining product's conformance with WaterSense specifications
  - Every fifth year retest each model of each certified product



# Draft Certification Scheme: Surveillance

- Annual Post-Market Product Surveillance
  - Random selection and testing of one unit of one model of each certified product per manufacturer
    - (for a manufacturer of A,B,C faucets and X,Y,Z toilets – one model A faucet and one model Z toilet is selected and tested)
  - Products selected from manufacturer's warehouse or at the project site or retail outlet where the product is sold



## Next Steps

- Submit written comments to [watersense\\_certification@erg.com](mailto:watersense_certification@erg.com) by July 24
- EPA will publish the comments received during the comment period
- Final certification scheme issued after evaluation of public comments – anticipated late Fall 2007
- Begin process for accrediting product certification bodies
- Anticipated effective date: Fall 2008



## More Information

- WaterSense Information:
  - Web site: [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)
  - E-mail: [watersense@erg.com](mailto:watersense@erg.com)
  - Toll-free Helpline: (866) WTR-SENSE



EPA  
**WaterSense**

Every drop counts.