



The Most Commonly Asked Questions About U.S. EPA's Voluntary Water-Efficiency Program

What is WAVE?

WAVE (Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency) is a non-regulatory water-efficiency partnership created and supported by U.S. EPA. WAVE's mission is to encourage commercial businesses and institutions to reduce water consumption while increasing efficiency, profitability and competitiveness.

Why did EPA create the program?

WAVE is part of EPA's long-term effort to prevent pollution and reduce demands on the nation's water and energy infrastructure. As supplies shrink and demands rise, competition among industrial, agricultural and domestic users for available water resources is increasing. Through WAVE and other programs, EPA seeks to ensure that adequate U.S. water resources remain available to support both human and environmental needs.

Can joining WAVE actually benefit the environment?

Yes. WAVE helps to protect the environment and sustain wildlife habitats by reducing water use, wastewater discharges and energy use. Less wastewater and reduced consumption means less energy is needed to heat, pump, and process water. This, in turn, helps cut polluting power plant emissions. If every eligible establishment participates, the lodging industry could save 32 billion gallons annually (or enough water to supply 250,000 average sized households). The related energy savings could be one trillion BTU (heating unit-) per year.

How many types of WAVE membership are there?

Three: Partners, Supporters and Endorsers. Partners include hotels, motels, inns and other commercial and institutional water users. Any water service company; equipment supplier/manufacturer; government agency; or water/wastewater utility may become a Supporter. Endorsers typically represent trade associations, professional institutes and organizations, and industry boards.

After joining, what must I do?

New members sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreeing to survey water-using equipment, and where profitable, install water-efficient upgrades within a pre-arranged time frame. Members also agree to design all new facilities with water-efficient equipment. Progress reports and program results are reported to EPA.

What support will I receive?

EPA is committed to helping all WAVE members publicize their water-efficiency programs. Support includes: Nationwide public service advertising; in-room promotional materials; press releases and public appearances. Members also receive FREE water-use analysis software, technical support and access to a nationwide help line.

How much can I expect to save?

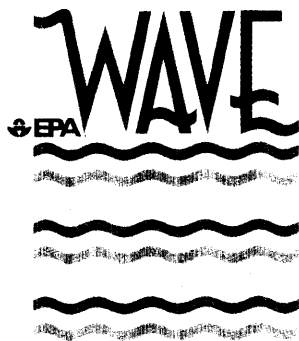
Water-efficiency measures, like those proposed by WAVE, can reduce water and sewer costs by up to 30%. Significant savings in energy, chemical and maintenance expenses are also possible. The typical payback period is less than 3 years.

Who else has joined WAVE?

Charter members, those first to join WAVE, represent some of lodging's most recognizable names, including: Westin, Hyatt, ITT Sheraton, Outrigger and the Saunders Hotel Group. Collectively, these Partners control 584 U.S. hotel properties and over 210,000 guest rooms.

How do I join?

For more information, please contact: WAVE Program Director, U.S. EPA, 401 M St. SW—Mail Stop 4204, Washington, DC 20460. Or call (202) 260-7288. Fax: (202) 260-1827.



**Water Alliances For
Voluntary Efficiency**



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