



## Partnership Agreement:

# Professional Certifying Organizations

### Section I: EPA WaterSense<sup>SM</sup> Program Goals

The EPA WaterSense program goals are to use water resources more efficiently to preserve them for future generations and reduce water and wastewater infrastructure costs by reducing unnecessary water consumption. Through this program, EPA will provide reliable information on high-performing, water-efficient products and practices, raise awareness about the importance of water efficiency, ensure water-efficient product performance, help consumers differentiate among products and programs designed to use less water, promote innovation in product development, and support state and local water efficiency efforts.

### Section II: Partnership Pledge

As an EPA WaterSense program partner, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of organization) shares EPA's goals as outlined above and is proud to commit to the following activities to further these goals:

1. Apply for the WaterSense label by completing the EPA's WaterSense Labeled Program Application Form for Professional Certifying Organizations for at least one certification program that meets an EPA WaterSense specification. This application must be submitted within 12 months of the execution of this Partnership Agreement.  
**Note: A draft or final specification for relevant certification program must be available before both parties enter into this Partnership Agreement.**
2. Promote the value of water efficiency and WaterSense and inform certification candidates about WaterSense as an easy and desirable option for customers to reduce water use and save money.
3. Make WaterSense partner materials available to those professionals who earn or renew a certification through a WaterSense labeled program.
4. Make available to EPA annual data on WaterSense labeled professional certification programs including the number of individuals who obtain these certifications.
5. Adhere to and ensure that authorized representatives, such as advertising agencies, distributors, and subcontractors, also comply. Help EPA maintain program integrity by alerting EPA to possible misuse(s) of the WaterSense partner logo or label.
6. Update EPA annually on the availability of professional certification programs and inform EPA in a timely manner if labeled certification programs are discontinued and/or no longer meet applicable criteria, so that EPA can maintain an up-to-date list of labeled programs on the Web site and in other materials.
7. Grant the EPA WaterSense program permission to include the partner organization's name on a list of participating partners on the EPA WaterSense Web site, program materials, and announcements. The partner organization understands that from time to time, EPA will be interested in profiling partner accomplishments in case studies and articles. If selected for such promotion, the partner organization will have the opportunity to provide input and review the final product prior to release to the public in EPA printed or Web documents. Further, the partner organization understands that EPA might refer media contacts interested in publicizing water efficiency to the partner organization for information about certification programs and accomplishments.

### Section III: EPA WaterSense Program's Commitments to Partners

1. Develop national specifications for water-efficient products and programs through an open, public process.
2. Increase awareness of the EPA WaterSense brand by distributing key messages on the benefits of labeled products and programs, as well as the importance of water efficiency.
3. Provide current EPA WaterSense program news, information, and reference documents (via the program Web site, helpline, e-mail, or other means), including a listing of labeled products and programs on the Web site.

4. Provide WaterSense program partners with public recognition for their involvement in the program and role in protecting the environment through online listing of partners, special awards, and other efforts. This recognition includes, but is not limited to listing partners and WaterSense labeled products and programs on the WaterSense Web site.
5. Respond swiftly to partner requests for information or clarification on EPA WaterSense program policies.
6. Review prepress promotional items, draft Web sites, packaging or other materials that use the WaterSense label, upon request.

## Section IV: General Terms and Disclaimers

1. The partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the EPA WaterSense program constitutes federal government (EPA) approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than the partner's commitment to the program.
2. The partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the program are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the federal government. As such, the partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
3. The partner and the EPA WaterSense program will assume good faith as a general principle for resolving conflict and will seek to resolve all matters informally, so as to preserve maximum public confidence in the program.
4. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this partnership agreement can result in its termination and cessation of access to the benefits of the program, including use of the program marks.
5. The EPA WaterSense program will actively pursue resolution of noncompliance related to the use of the program marks.
6. Both parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by either party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty. Termination will begin effective immediately upon written notice to or from the EPA WaterSense program. Upon termination of this agreement, partners agree to remove program marks in a timely manner, consistent with the WaterSense partner logo and label guidelines.

**To be completed by EPA**

**Authorized EPA Representative** (printed name): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by partner**

**Authorized Partner Representative<sup>1</sup>** (printed name): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Industry/SIC/NAICS code: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact: Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Web site: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about this program?  Web site  Referral, Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Periodical \_\_\_\_\_  Workshop, Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing \_\_\_\_\_  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>The Authorized Partner Representative should be a person in the organization with signing authority (e.g., vice president).

## Submit the Partnership Agreement (rewriteable PDF) to WaterSense via:

**Fax:** (703) 841-1440

**Mail:** WaterSense, c/o ERG, 2200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22201

If you have Adobe Acrobat Standard or Professional, you can fill out the form electronically and e-mail it to: [watersense@erg.com](mailto:watersense@erg.com).

Please contact the WaterSense Helpline at (866) WTR-SENSE (987-7367) if you have any questions about eligibility, partnership, or for general program inquiries.

The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 8 hours per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the Director, Collection Strategies Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed Partnership Agreement to this address.