



Statement in Support of Spray Sprinklers Standards

The Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA) supports legislation in 2022 to establish water-saving and energy efficiency standards for residential and commercial spray sprinklers. The House Environment and Natural Resources Committee is introducing legislation to help address the water and energy consumption issues created by the drought in Oregon, high water usage and waste and increased utility bills on low and moderate property owners using irrigation systems.

Oregon is the only state on the West Coast that has not adopted energy efficiency standards for spray sprinklers. At least seven states require that spray sprinklers sold in their states must include an integral pressure regulator and meet the Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense program product specifications. These pressure regulated sprinklers (PRS) are designed to operate at a water pressure of 30 pounds per square inch (psi) rather than at the 60-80 psi of many water utilities.

Establishing an efficiency standard for new commercial and residential spray sprinklers will reduce irrigation system misting and overspray that is common around urban landscapes. Current conservation studies show that PRS irrigation devices can reduce the usage of energy consumption to the tune of approximately \$74 million in 2030 and nearly \$130 million in 2040. Analyses also show that PRS devices can reduce water usage annually by 5,820,000,000 gallons in 2030 and 8,955,000,000 gallons by 2040. PRS components add \$3-\$4 to the cost of a sprinkler body but the cost is offset by water savings within the first year making the technology highly cost-effective over the life of the product.

The proposed legislation would allow the Oregon Department of Energy to adopt energy efficiency standards for commercial and residential sprinkler system devices and require that all sprinkler system devices sold in Oregon after January 1, 2023, meet those standards. The standards do not apply to products for use exclusively with agricultural irrigation systems, hose-end watering products or value-in-head devices. ***OLCA strongly supports this measure as reducing landscape water usage will become increasingly necessary as communities across the state face greater weather extremes in a warming climate.***