

## **Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award**

### **Cover Sheet:**

The City of Ferndale has made large strides in working to reduce its environmental footprint. Since 2007, the City has worked to make the City facilities greener by adopting sustainable purchasing policies, increasing recycling, installing no-flush urinals, and installing compact fluorescent light bulbs in several buildings. However, the City is constantly looking for low- or no-cost opportunities to help residents reduce their environmental footprint. Ferndale has passed initiatives including installing pedestrian recycling bins, banning phosphorous fertilizer and installing LED street lights.

The City of Ferndale has tackled most of the low-hanging fruit and now we are working to find funding for more significant programs like the City's Showerhead Exchange Program.

A grant from the Wege Foundation would allow the City of Ferndale to purchase approximately 500 Real Goods Energy-Saving Showerheads for our exchange program, which would decrease the amount of water being used by the residents of Ferndale.

To view the showerhead: <http://www.realgoods.com/product/home-outdoor/bathroom-bedroom/water+quality/energy+saving+showerhead.do>

## **Description of Program**

### ***Ferndale Showerhead Exchange Program:***

The Federal Energy Policy Act created minimum efficiency standards for showerheads which became effective in 1994. Showerheads manufactured prior to 1994 had a flow rate of 5-gallons-per-minute or more. The 1994 law required that showerheads have a flow rate of no more than 2.5-gallons-per-minute.

Therefore, the City of Ferndale developed a program for their water customers to exchange old showerheads (pre-1994) with new low-flow showerheads.

The City provides a new Real Goods showerhead with a flow rate of 1.5-gallons-per-minute (depending on water pressure) in exchange for each pre-1994 showerhead that is turned in to the City. Exchanging higher flow showerheads with a Real Goods energy-saving showerhead can result in water savings of more than 50 percent, and can save a four-person family up to \$250 per year.

The Ferndale Showerhead Exchange Program is an ongoing program administered by the Ferndale Department of Public Works (DPW). Ferndale residents (must show valid ID) can exchange up to four showerheads for new Real Goods Energy-Saving Showerheads Monday through Friday (except holidays) between the hours of 9am and 4pm at the DPW located at 521 E. Cambourne.

The Ferndale Environmental Sustainability Commission, a group of volunteers from the community, is committed to working with the City to market the Showerhead Exchange Program. This program promotes the triple bottom line by saving consumers money, providing all residents access to environmentally sustainable upgrades, and reducing our collective water usage.