

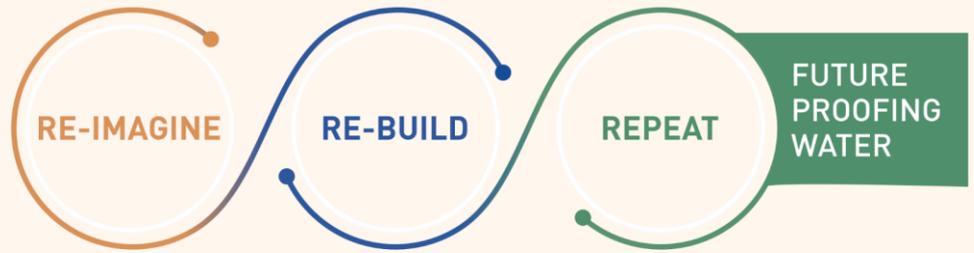
## SASTEP WORKSHOP: FAST-TRACKING THE ADOPTION OF THE WATER EFFICIENT TOILETS IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Wednesday, 22 September 2021 | 11:00-13:00 (CAT)**

The existing toilet use paradigm is water intensive, and high-volume flush toilets pose a danger to water security and sustainable use of water resources in a water stressed country like South Africa. Reduced flush water volumes, as well as the quantities needed for reticulation, will help to reduce water use and demand on municipal treatment capacity. With dwindling water resources in South Africa, the choice of sanitation technology is instrumental in establishing sustainable water use and water sensitive cities and settlements. According to anecdotal evidence, water efficient systems have a poor acceptance rate, and there are a variety of reasons for this low uptake. One of these reasons being the flush volume is insufficient to transport waste from the toilet to the conveyance system, and human waste coats the conveyance pipe, causing odours and obstructions. The benefits of low flush technology have been stifled because of these beliefs.

The WRC has championed various initiatives to drive reduced water use for sanitation, such as pour-flush and low flush toilets. Low flush, water efficient toilets are designed to use low amounts of water for flushing, which if upscaled, would have a significant nett water saving on country scale. The increase in demand for locally manufactured low flow toilets holds potential to create employment across the value-chain and reduce capital expenditure for larger supply systems.

Participants will include representatives from public organisations (especially those dealing with policies and regulations around water management and conservation), other relevant policy makers, academia, private companies, low flush toilet pedestal manufacturers, and NGOs involved in the research, development, management and implementation of water and sanitation programmes and policies in South Africa.



The workshop will build capacities and focus on:

1. Understanding gaps in policy, regulation, standards and bylaws, which deter/enable the adoption of low flush systems in SA
2. Commercially available and developmental stage low flush pedestals in South Africa
3. A performance testing protocol developed to accelerate the standardisation of low flush toilet technology development in South Africa; the evaluation of the impact of low flush pedestal on water consumption at the household and municipal level; and internal and external piping and reticulation systems; as well as wastewater treatment plants
4. Understanding the different standardisation processes/requirements for the uptake of the low flush pedestals and the benefits to local manufacturers
5. Defining a plan of action for water efficient toilets to be included in national programmes and facilitating the effective uptake and implementation of low flush, water efficient toilet technology in South Africa.

It is anticipated that at the end of the session the participants will gain an enhanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities posed by water intensive sanitation solutions and understand the need to change the narrative when it comes to choosing sanitation technologies. Participants should gain an understanding of the proposed formulation of plans of implementation supporting the new water efficient toilets in national programmes.

Chair: Ednah Mamakoa

11:00	The case for water efficient toilet pedestals in SA	Akin Akinsete
11:15	Opportunities and hurdles that impact the uptake of low flush, water efficient toilets in South Africa	Gary Quilling
11:45	Overview of the low flush pedestals in South Africa: Testing pedestal performance and their impact on household and municipal water usage	Preyan Arumugam-Nanoolal
12:15	Route to certification, and accreditation of locally manufactured low flush toilet pedestals in South Africa	Herman Strauss
12:45-13:00	Discussion	Chair