



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
EXAMINATIONS & LICENSING UNIT
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New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Contractor Examining Board CEC / WaterSense Notification Letter

S2745 that amended the Landscape Irrigation Contractor Certification Act of 1991 was signed into law on January 18, 2010 and became effective this past July 15th. Among the many provisions of the bill is the requirement for Continuing Education Credits (CEC's) as a condition for certification renewal. The Landscape Irrigation Contractor Examining Board is currently working diligently preparing the rules and regulations that will govern this requirement. Further announcements will be forthcoming when the rules and regulations are adopted. **No CEC's will be required for renewal of a New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Contractor Certificate this coming January 2011.**

On April 1, 2010, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Contractor Examining Board's Certification Program as a Professional Certifying Organization for the EPA WaterSense Irrigation Partner program. The New Jersey program was the first such licensing program in the country to achieve this recognition. This means any person who holds a current New Jersey Certified Landscape Irrigation Contractor Certificate can now become an EPA WaterSense Irrigation Partner.

Why should you become an EPA WaterSense Partner? By becoming a partner, you can:

- Distinguish yourself from the competition. All WaterSense landscape irrigation professional partners are listed on the EPA WaterSense Web site. This makes it easy for consumers to find certified professionals in their area.
- Demonstrate your commitment to water efficiency by using the WaterSense partner logo.
- Access tools and resources that can help you promote your services and your partnership with WaterSense.

Additionally, ordinances are pending or being considered by many towns and municipalities throughout New Jersey that may require certain irrigation services be provided by only New Jersey Certified Landscape Irrigation Contractors who are also EPA WaterSense Partners.

How do you become a WaterSense Partner?

- 1) Complete and sign a Certified Professionals Partnership Agreement. The agreement can be found on the WaterSense website @ <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/irrigation.html> .

- 1) Submit proof that you are certified through a WaterSense labeled certification program (copy of your current New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Contractor Certification card)
- 2) Submit your documents to watersense@epa.gov or fax to (703) 841-1440.
- 3) Meet the WaterSense Continuing Education Credit requirement
 - a) If you apply to be a WaterSense Partner before January 1, 2011:
 - i) If you obtained your New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Certificate on or after January 1, 2009, there is no requirement to submit any Continuing Education Credits (CEC's).
 - ii) If you obtained your New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Contractor Certificate before January 1, 2009, you are required to have obtained a minimum of 5 CEC's to qualify for recognition as a WaterSense Partner.
 - b) If you apply to become a WaterSense Partner on or after January 1, 2011 you will be required to have obtained a minimum of 15 CEC's to qualify as a WaterSense Partner.

How do I obtain and submit my CEC's?

The New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Contractor Examining Board (Board) is currently developing state specific CEC requirements as well as procedures for registering and verifying session attendance. In the interim, an applicant to the WaterSense Program may submit to the Board irrigation training activities that qualify for continuing education for the national Irrigation Association Certification Programs. Activities listed by the Irrigation Association for qualified continuing education under Irrigation Training – Tier 1, Irrigation Training – Tier 2, and Irrigation Training – Tier 3 may be submitted to the Board. They are as follows:

Irrigation Training - TIER 1

CAP:	No cap (maximum) on the number of CEUs per year earned in this category
	CEUs in this category are earned at the rate 1 CEU per hour of attendance
QUALIFYING ACTIVITY:	Attending irrigation educational courses or seminars
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Teaching irrigation education courses or seminars
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Irrigation educational courses and seminars are typically sponsored by trade associations, educational institutions, and professional irrigation instructors. Their subject matter is directly related to irrigation and is not product specific.

Irrigation Training - TIER 2

CAP:	No cap (maximum) on the number of CEUs per year earned in this category
	CEUs in this category are earned at the rate 0.5 CEU per hour of attendance
QUALIFYING ACTIVITY:	Judging an irrigation competition
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Attending "in-house" irrigation courses or seminars
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Teaching "in-house" irrigation courses or seminars
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Irrigation courses and seminars are typically sponsored by irrigation manufacturers, distributors or an individual's employer. Their subject matter is directly related to irrigation and can be product specific.

Irrigation Training - TIER 3

CAP:	A maximum of 5 CEUs per year can be earned in this category
	CEUs in this category are earned at the rate 0.25 CEU per hour of attendance
QUALIFYING ACTIVITY:	Attending irrigation or green industry trade shows
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Attending or teaching green industry courses or seminars
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Attending or teaching business courses or seminars
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Irrigation or green industry trade shows attendance is considered for walking the trade show floor or attending corporate sales meetings. Staffing of an individual's employer or affiliate trade association booth is not included in this category.
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Green industry courses and seminars are typically sponsored by manufacturers, distributors, trade associations, and educational institutions. Their subject matter is indirectly related to irrigation and can be product specific.
TRAINING DEFINITION:	Business courses and seminars are typically sponsored by manufacturers, distributors, trade associations, and educational institutions. Their subject matter is directly related to irrigation industry business functions.

* Note: CEU's means Continuing Education Units.

A CEC submission form is attached for your convenience. The completed form should be returned to:

New Jersey Landscape Irrigation Contractor Examining Board
 N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
 Exams and Licensing Unit
 Mail Code 401-04E
 PO Box 420
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Upon receipt of your completed WaterSense Partner Agreement, the EPA WaterSense staff will verify with the Landscape Irrigation Contractor Examining Board that you have submitted documentation of training activities that qualify for continuing education for the national Irrigation Association Certification Programs. Your application to become a WaterSense Partner will only be approved after this verification.