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## Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — MAY 21, 2009

# Do softeners slow down landfill overflow? Green benefits to be studied in new research program

**Lisle, Illinois** — Because they extend the life of major appliances, water softeners help reduce landfill overflow and cut back on the environmental cost connected with manufacturing new devices. They also save energy.

Those are theories that a new, independent study will examine, the Water Quality Research Foundation announced today.

“By making sure our appliances run better with soft water, ion exchange water softeners ultimately help to protect the environment,” said Peter J. Censky, executive director of the Water Quality Association, the body that oversees WQRF. “The goal of this study is to measure the extent of energy savings that are made possible by the use of these softeners.”

The research project will test the longevity of clothes washers, dishwashers, and low flow faucets using hard and softened water. It will be conducted by the Battelle Memorial Institute, a non-profit international science and technology enterprise. Tests will be conducted using independently developed and impartial methods.

Battelle is also conducting tests to determine how much energy savings softeners can provide homeowners. The final research report for this aspect of the research is scheduled for September 2009.

WQRF was formed more than a half-century ago to serve as a universally recognized, independent research organization to conduct and fund scientific research on subjects relating to the water quality improvement industry.

The Water Quality Association is a not-for-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry. Its membership consists of both manufacturers as well as dealers/distributors of equipment. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide.