Technology Adoption Policy
Updated October 2020

Water For People wants every family, clinic, and school to have lasting access to safe water and sanitation for generations to come. We call this impact model **Everyone Forever.**

Framed by principles that are simple, adaptable, and scalable, Everyone Forever has a goal to create local environments where water and sanitation services can flow to every person that wants them, on a permanent basis. This means people have the necessary skills and the strong institutions to support their own healthy communities, independent of foreign aid.

Our technology choices must support that independence!

The single best characteristic for any technology is for it to suit its environment – which means it is supported by local markets, consistent with government policy, and meets the expectations of intended users. Even the most brilliant technological solutions will fail if they fall short on any of these criteria. Technologies that are developed within the relevant context (such as the sanitation technologies we have developed and tested in our Country Programs) have the best chance of being appropriate to their context. Still, we are open to innovation from any sector, provided it will support the standards we know are essential to Everyone Forever.

Criteria for Incorporating Technology or Products into our Programs

Rather than use, test, or promote any particular technology, Water For People builds functional environments and supports communities to make their own choices from technologies that are locally available, locally maintainable, affordable to install and maintain, and appropriate to the watershed. Since standardization is critical to efficiency, these technologies must also be approved by the local government. We are open to introducing new technologies with a proper technology transfer process that is linked with government and that, if eventually accepted by government, will be available on the local market for others to access. Water For People teams and partners must be able to clearly demonstrate the need that technology fills.

Technologies and products that are <u>consistent with the Everyone Forever model</u> have the following characteristics:
- They are necessary to a program within a specific country strategic plan
- They are locally available
- They are government-approved
- They are affordable to install and maintain and come with no hidden costs
- They are of high quality (not "irregulars" or about to expire)
- They do not harm communities or the immediate environment
- They do not create unaffordable demands or dependency
- They do not distort local markets by being subsidized

While we appreciate the efforts of those who develop technology and products, whether nonprofit or for profit, that might meet the needs of low- and middle-income communities, it is not part of our mission, nor is it within our range of expertise, to test or support the marketing of products that were developed outside of the specific contexts where we work.

If after reading this policy, you have further questions about Water For People's technology and product adoption, or you have a technology or product you feel might be appropriate for Water For People and the Everyone Forever model, please contact Kelly Latham at klatham@waterforpeople.org.