Solano County's Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program

Convert Your Lawn to a Water-Efficient Landscape!

Terms and Conditions

The Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) is offering cash rebates to water customers who replace thirsty grass turf with water-efficient landscaping. Lawn conversion saves you time and money while conserving water and benefiting the environment. You may be eligible for a rebate of $1.00 per square foot when converting your lawn to a sustainable landscape. The maximum rebate is **$1,000** per eligible water service account.

Rebates are one-time-only per site, and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebates offered are subject to availability of funds. The Rebate Program is currently budgeted through **December 31, 2014**, but the Agency reserves the right to terminate this program at any time, for any reason.

Eligibility

- The Program is available to residential customers who purchase water from a participating SCWA Member Agency. Properties using recycled water or not connected to the city's water system are ineligible. The water service account must be in good standing and have been active for at least twelve months.
- Lawn areas to be converted must be currently maintained and in healthy condition, and be irrigated by a sprinkler system in working condition. ***Dead lawns or lawns already removed at the time of pre-inspection are not eligible for a rebate.***
- However, you may still be eligible to participate in the program if you stopped watering your lawn because of the drought. It will be determined on a case by case basis – call 707.455.1113 to speak to a program representative.
- New construction does not qualify for the rebate program as it is aimed at encouraging retrofitting of existing sites.
- Rebate applicants must agree to brief Pre- and Post-Inspection site visits by Agency staff in order to apply and qualify for the Turf Replacement rebate.

Steps to Participate

1. Call the Solano County Water Agency at 707.455.1113 to schedule a brief Pre-Inspection visit to have the lawn area measured and approved.
2. Following Pre-Inspection, await receipt of Notice to Proceed letter from the Agency. ***Do not remove lawn until you receive this document. To be eligible for a rebate, the Lawn Conversion Project must not be started before approval and receipt of a Notice to Proceed. The program is not retroactive; projects that have been started or projects that have already been completed prior to the Notice to Proceed are not eligible.***
3. Remove the lawn area and install your project according to the program Landscaping Requirements listed in the Terms and Conditions.
4. Call SCWA at 707.455.1113 or 707.455.1111 to schedule a Post-Inspection visit. ***Post-Inspection must take place within three (3) months of the Notice to Proceed.***

5. Provide at Post-Inspection, or mail in**,** your final completed Rebate Application along with a list of plants and materials used in the conversion.

   SCWA Mailing Address: 810 Vaca Valley Pkwy, Ste. 203, Vacaville, CA 95688

Landscaping Requirements for Converted Area

- **Plants** - must be drought tolerant and adapted to our climate. Helpful resources for water-wise plant selection are available at http://www.solanosaveswater.org and also at http://www.solano.watersavingplants.com (Solano County's Water-Wise Gardening website).
- **All planting areas must have a minimum of two (2) inches of mulch. The converted area must include a sufficient number of plants to ensure at least 50% of the area is covered when the plants are fully grown.**
- **Hardscape** - must be permeable (e.g., decomposed granite). Concrete, plastic sheeting or other impermeable surfaces are not allowed as part of the conversion area.
- **Artificial Turf/Grass does not qualify for the rebate.**
- **Irrigation system** for the converted area, if used, must be **low-volume drip**. Overhead spray is not allowed. The system must be in good working order, free of leaks and malfunctions. If only part of a lawn is converted, new planting area must be irrigated on a separate valve from the remaining lawn. Sprinkler system for the remaining lawn must be modified to avoid spray onto the converted area.
- **Tenants/Renters:** If applicant is not the property owner, written consent from the property owner must be provided to Agency staff at the Pre-Inspection visit.
- At Post-Inspection, applicant must provide a list of plants and/or hardscape materials used in the conversion (may be handwritten). If conversion fails inspection, applicant will be given thirty (30) days to bring project into compliance.
- Offer is limited to **one (1)** Turf Replacement rebate per water account.

Rebate Offer

- **$1.00 per square foot** of lawn removed, with per site maximum of **$1,000** for Single-Family Residential (equivalent to 1,000 sq. ft.)
- *Rebate applicants may of course remove more turf area than is covered by the rebate program, but the per site maximum $ will still apply.*
- Rebate applicants must consent to **brief Pre- and Post-Inspection site visits** by Solano County Water Agency staff in order to apply and qualify for the Turf Replacement rebate.
- At the **Pre-Inspection** visit, Agency staff will measure the proposed conversion area and verify that the site meets the program's terms and conditions. If approved, the Agency will mail a **Notice to Proceed** to the applicant.
- Lawn conversions **must be completed within three (3) months** of the date on the Notice to Proceed.
- **Notwithstanding the foregoing, this requirement is void upon transfer of ownership.**
- Following the **Post-Inspection** visit and **Final Approval**, SCWA will issue a rebate check to the eligible applicant. **Please allow 8 – 10 weeks for the rebate check to be processed.**
- Rebates are paid on a first come first served basis and are only available until funds are depleted.

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