

# Solano County's Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program

## 2015/16 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 residential water service account (\$5,000 maximum for CII accounts).

Rebates are one-time-only per site, and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. **Rebates are subject to availability of funds and at no point in time are guaranteed.** The Rebate Program is currently budgeted through **June 30, 2016**, 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.
- Must have a minimum of 300 square feet of lawn.
- 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.
- ***This program is NOT retroactive; projects that have been started, lawn that has died, or projects that have already been completed prior to a Pre-inspection are not eligible.***

### Special Drought Conditions to Participate

- Many Solano residents have stopped watering their lawns because of the on-going drought. This will not necessarily make you ineligible for the Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program. Depending on the city you live in and when you stopped watering, SCWA may grant a "drought waiver" from the requirement that lawns must be currently irrigated. Each rebate applicant will be handled on a case by case basis. We do not want to penalize people who are trying to be water efficient.

### Steps to Participate

1. Call the Solano County Water Agency at 707.455.1113 or email to [solanocash4grass@scwa2.com](mailto:solanocash4grass@scwa2.com) 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.***

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 email [solanocash4grass@scwa2.com](mailto:solanocash4grass@scwa2.com) to schedule a Post-Inspection visit when project is complete. ***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.

## **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.** Installation of any fescue is ineligible of a rebate.
- **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. After which applicant will be disqualified.
- 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.). The per site maximum rebate amount for multi-family or CII account is \$5,000 (equivalent to 5,000 sq. ft).
- *Rebate applicants are encouraged to remove more turf area than is covered by the rebate program, but the per site maximum of \$1000 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, Water 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. **At no point in time are you guaranteed a rebate.**