

# City of San Diego Public Utilities

## Residential Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program

### Rebate Process:

- Get an Application:  
<http://www.sandiego.gov/water/pdf/conservation/conservationrebateapplication.pdf>
- Submit your Application:  
[waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov/waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov)
- City will contact you to set up a Pre-Site Inspection to confirm your qualifications
- Submit **Plant Coverage Worksheet** within 45 days
- Complete the project within 120 days and schedule a Post-Site evaluation **619-533-6661**
- Submit Receipts (rebate will not exceed total materials receipts)
- Receive your rebate!!

### Requirements:

- Minimum Conversion of 400SF or entire front yard
- Replace living lawn with low or moderate water use plants
- Ensure plant coverage at maturity is at least 50%
- Trees are encouraged, although do not count towards 50% coverage
- Mulch must be spread at least 3" deep, except in areas where groundcover is used
- Weed barrier must be placed below permeable hardscape
- Irrigation system must be capped if not being used
- Converted area must be 100% permeable to air and water
- Original receipts or invoices, showing itemized cost of materials, must be submitted
- Project site must be maintained for 5 years.

**Rebate--\$1.25 / Square Foot (up to \$3,000/2400sq.ft)**

### Sustainable Landscape-Turf Replacement Rebate Guidelines



**Did you know that more than 50% of the water consumed by most households is used to maintain landscapes?**

- City of San Diego Public Utilities Department residential customers served by an individual water meter can receive a rebate for turf replacement!
- Funding for a limited number of rebates is available through the City of San Diego Transportation and Storm Water Department and a State of California grant and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until exhausted. *This program is subject to change without prior notification.*
- Applicant's water account must be in good standing.
- Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. A pre-inspection is required before work begins.
- Site changes made related to rebate program must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions.
- Labor and taxes are **not** covered by the rebate. Please consult with a tax advisor if you have questions regarding any potential tax implications of your rebate.
- Rebate amount **CANNOT** exceed total material costs on receipts or \$1.25/square foot converted up to \$3,000.
- **Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record 6-8 weeks after post-installation site visit is successfully completed.**

**If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-4126 or e-mail [waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov).**

## What does not qualify for a rebate?

- High water use plants (as classified by WUCOLs)  
<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf>
- Lawns that do not have existing irrigation systems
- Vegetable gardens, artificial turf
- Backyard conversions
- Exposed soil surfaces (exceptions made to accommodate specific garden design motifs)
- Impermeable surfaces such as bricks and flagstone mortared into place, or concrete.  
(Pervious surfaces that are part of the project area are eligible for rebate so long as total project area includes living plant coverage area of at least 50% at maturity)
- Water features or fountains
- Planting of invasive species. For list of invasive species go to the [California Invasive Plant Council website](#) or the [San Diego County Invasive Ornamental Plant Guide](#).
- All labor and taxes

## What is a Sustainable Landscape?

**Sustainable landscapes are intended to be in balance with the local climate and environment and designed to require few added resources, thereby reducing waste and minimizing air, water and soil pollution. The Sustainable Landscape-Turf Replacement Rebate Program is intended to encourage the replacement of high water using turf grass with ornamental plant material that thrives with little to moderate amounts of water during the extended dry periods that characterize San Diego's climate. The scaled use of turf, with a focus on the use of water wise plant material, abundant mulch, efficient irrigation and reduced runoff are all components of sustainable landscaping.**

**The objective of this rebate program is to encourage a reduction in water use through the conversion of grass to water wise plant material, while maintaining a high level of living landscape to benefit the environment. Additional steps such as converting overhead sprinklers to low flow micro-irrigation and installing a Smart Controller can further reduce water use and help control irrigation runoff.**

