



# Lawn Removal Rebate Program



**Rebate Amount:**     **\$1.00 sq/ft of lawn removed**  
                              \$1,000 Maximum Rebate for Single Family Residential Customers\*  
                              \$5,000 Maximum Rebate for Multi-Family and Commercial Customers\*

## Eligibility Requirements

Lawns must be in, at minimum, a formerly well-maintained condition, and irrigated with an in-ground sprinkler system in good working order. **(Lawn removed prior to receiving confirmation of rebate eligibility will not qualify for the rebate).** No exceptions.

The property must be at a location served by the City of Santa Cruz Water Department. The applicant must be the property owner or an authorized agent. One rebate per property is allowed per year.

**All projects must be approved for rebate prior to lawn removal and replacement.** Please review the required self-administered procedure for initiating rebate eligibility on the [Lawn Removal Rebate Program](#) webpage.

## Lawn Conversion Checklist

Lawn area must be replaced with California native, very low or low water use plants or permeable landscape surfaces such as artificial turf, decomposed granite, permeable pavers etc.

All non-planted area must be covered with at least 2" of mulch material. If a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water.

The existing sprinklers in the lawn removal area must be removed, capped in place or converted to low volume drip. Any remaining landscape near the converted area must be irrigated with a separate valve.

An irrigation system is not required. However, a separately valved, drip irrigation system with a filter and pressure regulation is allowed in the converted landscape area. The system must be in good working order, free of leaks and malfunctions, and designed to avoid runoff.

## How to Participate:

1. Review the self-administered procedure for initiating your rebate eligibility and submit via email or mail, the required pre-project information and photo-documentation.
2. After receiving your confirmation of rebate eligibility, you may proceed with your lawn conversion project. **Your project must receive pre-approval in order to qualify for the rebate.**
3. When your project is complete, review the detailed self-administered steps for finalizing your request for rebate. Submit the full scope of project information, photo-documentation and completed rebate application.
4. Call the Water Conservation Office at 420-5230 if you have any questions regarding the rebate program.

\*One rebate per property per calendar year.

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Lawn Removal Rebate

### **How long do I have to complete my lawn conversion project?**

The project must be completed within one year from the date of initiating rebate eligibility.

### **I've already replaced my lawn with water efficient plants. Can I still get a rebate?**

No. The rebate is not retroactive and is not applicable to projects that were started prior to receiving a pre-project approval for rebate eligibility. The program is intended to provide an incentive to retrofit existing lawns.

### **I hand water my lawn. Can I get a rebate?**

No. The rebate is currently for customers who water with an in-ground irrigation system.

### **Do I have to complete both the pre and post project self-administered procedures?**

Yes. Both are required to establish eligibility and to finalize your rebate.

### **What can I replace my lawn with to qualify for the rebate?**

You may choose from a wide variety of California natives, very low or low water use plants, and/or permeable hardscapes such as permeable pavers, gravel, flagstone, decomposed granite, artificial turf, etc.

### **Can I receive a rebate for replacing my high water use lawn with low water use lawn?**

No. The program provides incentive to convert lawns to alternative types of water-efficient landscaping including native bunch grasses. One of the goals of the program is to provide visible examples of water-efficient landscapes that can be alternatives to lawns.

### **What materials do not qualify for a rebate?**

Non-qualifying materials include: **seed, sod, vegetable gardens, vineyards, medium and high water use plants, lawn ornaments, impervious surfaces, cement, decking, curbing, hot tubs, pools, building extensions, retaining walls, sheds, trellises, play ground materials, and fences.**

### **Can I get a rebate for installing a new landscape?**

No. The rebate is an incentive to remove existing high water use landscapes and irrigation equipment.

### **Where can I learn more about very low and low water use plants?**

- Very Low and Low Water Use Plant List: [www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate)
- Water Smart Gardening in Santa Cruz County: [www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com](http://www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com)
- *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates* by East Bay MUD
- Water Use Classification of Landscape Species or WUCOLS ([www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf))
- Check plant labels and ask about options at your favorite nursery

For further information contact the Water Conservation Office  
831-420-5230

[www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate)