

**Water Resources Association
San Benito County**

Turf Replacement Rebate Program
\$2 per square foot – from 100 sq. ft. up to 1,000 sq. ft.

WRASBC
(831) 637-4378 – www.wrasbc.org

The WRASBC is offering a program to reduce or limit turf in residential areas. Turf can use up to 80” of water per year in our climate and we only receive from 11-13” of rain on average. This program will act as an incentive to get people to remove turf and plant drought tolerant or native plants that use much less water and are more appropriate for our climate.

The WRASBC is offering customers of all the agencies they represent a **\$2.00 per square foot** to replace eligible lawn areas (from 100 square feet up to 1,000 square feet) with:

- Low-water-use, climate-appropriate plants (25% of rehabilitated landscape area) and;
- Permeable hardscape (pavers or other materials that allow water to pass-through to the soil). Examples include pavers, crushed granite, decorative stones, mulch, etc.
- Leak-free, drip irrigation if used in the converted area, must be low volume drip, micro-spray or bubbler and be free of malfunctions. Once installed, the irrigation system must not create runoff, overspray or misting.

The following **per site maximum/minimum** rebate amounts apply:

Maximum: \$2,000 for Single-Family Multi-Family or Commercial
(equivalent to 1,000 square feet of lawn removed)

Minimum: \$200 for Single-Family Multi-Family or Commercial
(equivalent to 100 square feet of lawn removed)

Customers may remove more or less turf area than is covered by the rebate program, but the per site maximum/minimum \$ still applies.

Program Eligibility

- Rebates are available for residents, businesses, or institutions that receive their water from the City of Hollister, the City of San Juan Bautista, the Sunnyslope County Water District and the San Benito County Water District (Zone 6 ONLY)
- Participants must own the property to be eligible
- Applicants must obtain pre-approval of their landscape plans for the area where the turf will be removed (WRASBC will send a letter to the participant) after they participate in a qualifying pre-inspection
- Landscape areas to be converted must be currently maintained and irrigated
- Projects that have been started, landscape that has died, or projects that have already completed prior to pre-approval are not eligible
- New construction does not qualify as the Turf Removal Program is aimed at encouraging retrofitting of existing landscapes
- Projects must be completed with 120 days of pre-approval. Extensions can be provided on a case by case basis, if requested. However, funds are limited and an extension doesn't reserve or guarantee funds will be available when your project is completed.
- Non-qualifying materials include, but are not limited to the following: seed, sod, vegetable gardens, vineyards, high water use plants, lawn ornaments, impervious surfaces, cement, decking, curbing, hot tubs, pools, building extensions, retaining walls, sheds, trellises, playground materials and fences.

Water Resources Association of San Benito County (WRASBC)

30 Mansfield Road

Hollister, CA 95024-0899

(831) 637-4378

Steps To Participate

1. Call the WRASBC at 831-637-4378 or email the Program Manager at jcosioarellano@sbcwd.com to schedule a **Pre-Inspection** visit to have the lawn area measured. Either have a materials list ready at the time of the pre-inspection or a materials list can be submitted by mail or in person after the pre-inspection. The materials needs to show what plants, irrigation system (if needed), and hardscape materials you plan to install in the area where the turf was removed.
2. The WRASBC will review your materials list and send you an **Approval Letter**. After you receive the **Approval Letter**, you can start your project.
3. Remove the lawn area and **install your project** according to the approved materials list and program Terms and Conditions.
4. Call the Water Conservation Representative at 831-637-4378 to schedule a **Post-Inspection** visit. *Post-Inspection must take place **within 120 days** of receiving the Approval Letter. Rebate checks will be processed within four (4) to six (6) weeks after Post-Inspection.*
5. Rebates of \$600 or more may be considered taxable income by the IRS/State. A signed and completed W-9 Form must be submitted with any rebate application.

Some Water-Wise Plant Resources

- Obtain the Water Conservation Fact Sheet entitled, “Low-Water/ Drought Resistant Plant List and Resources” from the WRASBC

ALERT: To retain your rebate eligibility, DO NOT INSTALL HIGH-WATER-USE PLANTS in your converted landscape. Only low- or moderate-water-use species are acceptable. 25% of the rehabilitated area must be low or moderate-water-use-plants.

High-water-use plant species are those listed as needing "Regular Water" or "Ample Water" in the *Sunset Western Garden Book* and those classified as High (H) water use on the WUCOLS (Water Use Classification Of Landscape Species) website. See WRASBC Fact Sheet “Low-Water/ Drought Resistant Plant List and Resources”.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE REBATE

1. General

- a. Turf may not be reinstalled while you maintain ownership of the property.

If turf is reinstalled during that time, the entire rebate amount must be refunded.

- b. An applicant may be required to refund the entire rebate, or a portion thereof, in the WRASBC’s sole discretion, if rebate program terms and requirements are violated. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this requirement is void upon transfer of ownership.

2. Program Eligibility Determination

- a. All determinations of program eligibility are at the sole discretion of the WRASBC.
- b. The WRASBC may reject or limit applications at any time, for any reason. Only the property owner on record or the property owner’s may apply.

3. The applicant is solely responsible for complying with any and all laws, regulations, policies, conditions, covenants and restriction that may apply and for any and all liabilities arising out of a conversion project. Applicants are encouraged to consult any applicable covenants, conditions and restriction (CC&Rs) or neighborhood Homeowner’s Association (HOA) regulations that may apply to an anticipated conversion project prior to requesting a pre-inspection with the WRASBC. Applicants must also comply with all state and local laws relating to landscape maintenance. The quality, maintenance and appearance of the conversion are the exclusive responsibility of the applicant.