

# Pilot Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program

## Terms and Conditions

The **Pilot Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program** provides rebates to Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) customers to convert water-thirsty lawns to water-efficient landscapes. Funding is limited and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. CCWD reserves the right to terminate this program at any time, for any reason.

The following terms and conditions apply to the **Pilot Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program**. Please read carefully prior to submission of your application.

### I. Eligibility

- A. The Pilot Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program is available to residential and non-residential customers, who receive treated water in the CCWD retail and wholesale service area. Customer accounts must be distinctly metered to allow for evaluation of water savings. The applicant's water account must be in good standing.
- B. Lawn areas to be converted must be currently maintained and in healthy condition, and be irrigated by a sprinkler system in good working condition.
- C. Lawn areas to be converted must be front yards or areas visible to the general public. No backyards or areas that are not visible to the public are eligible. One of the goals of the Pilot Program is to provide visible examples of water-efficient landscapes to the community.
- D. A minimum of 300 square feet of lawn must be converted. Smaller projects will be considered if they eliminate 100% of the lawn on the property.
- E. The Program Rebate Application must be submitted to CCWD and the applicant must participate in a pre-conversion site inspection conducted by CCWD prior to the removal of any lawn. Conversions that are initiated prior to CCWD's approval are ineligible.

### II. Landscaping requirements for Converted Areas

- A. **Fifty Percent (50%) Plant Cover:** The converted area must include a sufficient number of water-efficient plants to ensure at least 50% of the area is covered when the plants are fully grown. To determine mature plant size, consult the Sunset Western Garden book. Plants outside the converted area are not considered in the calculation even if they are adjacent to, or overhanging into the converted area.
- B. **Plants:** Plants must be drought tolerant and adaptable to our local climate. Plants must be listed on the CCWD Approved Plant List. For a copy of the list visit [www.cewater.com/conserv](http://www.cewater.com/conserv) and click on the link for **Pilot Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program**. Substitute plants will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

- C. **Concrete:** Impermeable surfaces, such as concrete that do not allow water to penetrate into the ground, are not allowed as part of the conversion area. Permeable hardscape is allowed; however, the 50% Plant Cover rule still applies to the entire area.
- D. **Artificial Grass:** If artificial grass is used in any part of the conversion, the artificial grass must be installed by a licensed contractor. The contractor must install the artificial grass in accordance with the manufacturer's installation specifications. The installation must be permeable to water and air. Only polyethylene and nylon artificial turf products are eligible for rebates. Patio carpet and other "Astroturf" type products are not eligible. NOTE: the 50% plant cover requirement listed above in Section II-A still applies.
- E. **Mulch:** All planting areas must have a minimum of two (2) inches of mulch. Note, if a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water.
- F. **Efficient Irrigation:** Irrigation systems, if used, must be low volume drip, equipped with proper backflow prevention, a pressure regulator, filter and pressure compensating emitters. The system must be in good working order, free of leaks and malfunctions. If only part of a lawn is converted, the new planting area must be irrigated on a separate valve from the remaining lawn. The sprinkler system for the remaining lawn must be modified to provide adequate coverage and may not spray onto the converted area. For information on drip irrigation, visit [www.ccwater.com/consERVE](http://www.ccwater.com/consERVE), and click on the link for **Pilot Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program**.

### III. Terms of the Rebate

- A. **Term:** Conversions must be completed within four (4) months following receipt of the "Notice to Proceed" from Contra Costa Water District. To ensure water savings are achieved, the converted area must remain in compliance with the program terms and conditions for a period of five (5) years following receipt of the rebate. An applicant may be charged part or the entire rebate amount at CCWD's discretion if the terms or conditions have been violated. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this requirement is void upon transfer of ownership.
- B. **Rebate Amounts:** The rebate is fifty-cents (\$0.50) per square foot of grass converted. The maximum rebate for residential single-family sites is \$500 and for non-residential sites is \$5,000 (see rebate table on page 3). Rebates will be issued to the water customer or to that customers legally appointed representative.

The following table illustrates a range of potential rebates:

Rebate Amounts	
Area Converted (sq. ft.)	Rebate
300	\$150
500	\$250
750	\$375
1000	\$500*
2000	\$1,000
3000	\$1,500
4000	\$2,000
5000	\$2,500
6000	\$3,000
7000	\$3,500
8000	\$4,000
9000	\$4,500
10,000	\$5,000**

\* max. rebate per residential single-family site

\*\* max. rebate per non-residential site

C. **Pre-Inspection:** Customers interested in participating must first submit an application to CCWD.

Mailing Address	Delivery Address
Water Conservation Department Contra Costa Water District PO Box H2O Concord, CA 94524	Contra Costa Water District 1331 Concord Avenue Concord, CA 94520

CCWD will conduct a pre-inspection to measure the proposed conversion area and verify that the site meets the program’s terms and conditions. If approved, CCWD will mail a **Notice to Proceed** to the customer.

D. **Post-Inspection:** The customer is responsible to notify CCWD to conduct a Post-Inspection once the landscape conversion is complete. CCWD will conduct the Post-Inspection to verify program compliance. During the post-inspection participants are required to provide the following documents:

- List of plants used in the conversion. This can be a handwritten or typed list.
- Copy of receipts for plants, irrigation equipment, and any other costs for the project

If the conversion fails inspection, the applicant will be given thirty (30) days, or the remainder of the four (4) month period, whichever is greater, to bring the project into compliance.

- E. **Additional Responsibilities of the Applicant:** CCWD enforces only the terms and conditions of this agreement. The applicant is solely responsible for complying with any and all laws, regulations, policies, conditions, covenants and restrictions that may apply, and for any and all liabilities arising out of a conversion project. Applicants must comply with all local permitting requirements, and with all state and local laws relating to landscape maintenance.

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