



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
SINCE 1957
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LAWN REPLACEMENT REBATE PILOT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Rebates are being offered for removal of maintained lawn* that is replaced with either non-water consuming material (e.g., bark or mulch, rock, deck, synthetic turf, concrete, and permeable concrete products) or low to moderate use plants. The maximum rebate is **\$300** per parcel and is applied as a credit to the account. The minimum amount of maintained lawn that must be replaced is 300 square feet.

A **\$300** rebate is given if the lawn is replaced with non-water consuming material (e.g., bark or mulch, rock, deck, synthetic turf, concrete, and permeable concrete products).

A **\$150** rebate is given if the lawn is replaced with low to moderate water-use plant selections (this includes all non-water consuming surface materials used in and around the plants). Low to moderate plant material shall be used and the plant coverage cannot exceed 50% of the landscaped area when fully mature.

Existing lawn Irrigation system plumbing must be removed/rendered useless or replaced with an approved low volume irrigation system if low to moderate plant material is installed in the newly landscaped area.

***Maintained lawn is considered grass that is regularly watered and mowed and in good condition.**

Applicant must be a treated water customer of PCWA.

Areas to be converted must be maintained lawn currently irrigated with treated water. Dead lawns will not be eligible for a rebate. The material(s) must be installed at the service address listed on the application. Rebates are for lawn replacement only.

If you are interested in participating, fill out the Lawn Replacement Rebate Pilot Program Letter of Interest form and return to:

**PCWA Business Center
P.O. Box 6570
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95604**

Lawn Replacement Rebate Pilot Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are my options for converting my lawn?

A **\$300** rebate is given if the lawn is replaced with non-water consuming material (e.g., bark or mulch, rock, deck, synthetic turf, concrete, and permeable concrete products).

A **\$150** rebate is given if the lawn is replaced with low to moderate water-use plant selections (this includes all non-water consuming surface materials used in and around the plants). Low to moderate plant material shall be used and the plant coverage cannot exceed 50% of the landscaped area when fully mature.

The minimum amount of maintained lawn that must be replaced is 300 square feet.

2. Can I receive credit for putting in a patio, a deck, a walkway or an extension to my driveway?

Yes. If the applicant will be removing lawn to install a patio, a deck, a walkway or a driveway extension, PCWA will allow it.

3. What plants can I use in my water-efficient landscape?

The Lawn Replacement Program resources provide low to moderate plant selections. They must not cover more than fifty percent (50%) of the converted area, when fully mature. Applicants are required to use low water-consuming plants and native species. The provided resources consist of commonly used plants in the Sacramento Valley Region. Included in the resources is a low to moderate plant list that provides both the plant's common name and its botanical name. It includes the mature size of each plant in square feet to help the applicant meet the coverage requirement. An applicant should also consider keeping any existing trees because trees provide shade to one's home and landscape. If an applicant chooses plants that are not included on PCWA's provided plant list, the applicant must provide the coverage requirements of the chosen plants prior to beginning the conversion project.

4. Can I receive credit for replacing my lawn with synthetic turf or other materials that do not require water?

Yes, PCWA will accept synthetic turf, bark or mulch, rock, deck, concrete, and permeable concrete products (as outlined and defined in the program's requirements) as a substitute for irrigated lawn.

5. Can I install a combination of low water-use plants and non-plant materials?

Yes, a combination of materials is acceptable for a rebate of \$150. PCWA will accept synthetic turf, bark or mulch, rock, deck, concrete, and permeable concrete products (as outlined and defined in the program's requirements) as a substitute for irrigated lawn.

6. Why do I need a filter and pressure regulator on a low volume irrigation system?

The emitters on a drip irrigation system have very small openings for the water to pass through. A filter prevents sediment from clogging emitters, ensuring that plants will get the correct amount of water. A pressure regulator keeps the irrigation system at the manufacturer's recommended pressure (usually between 20 and 40 pounds per square inch). Not installing a pressure regulator may cause fittings and lines to fail, creating wasteful breaks and leaks in your system.

7. What is considered to be an efficient irrigation system?

The installation of an efficient irrigation system begins with good design. A low-volume drip system is a proper choice for trees, plants and shrubs applying water directly to the plant's roots. For lawn areas, systems must apply water uniformly over the desired area with a minimum of overspray into adjacent areas. There are sprinkler heads on the market today that offer low precipitation rates (such as rotating spray heads) that save water and allow the soil to absorb the applied water minimizing any runoff.

8. What does "low volume drip irrigation system" mean?

Low volume irrigation means the application of irrigation water at low pressure through a system of tubing or lateral lines and low-volume emitters such as drip, drip lines (e.g., in-line emitters), and bubblers. These systems are designed to apply small volumes of water slowly at or near the root zone of plants. Drip irrigation means any non-spray, low-volume irrigation system that uses emission devices with a flow rate equal to or less than two (2) gallons per hour.

9. I turned off the water on my grass and it has started to die. Can I still qualify for the program?

No. Since the purpose of the program is to reduce existing water demand, an applicant must be currently maintaining a lawn. Once an applicant has sent in the application, has had a pre-conversion site review with an authorized PCWA representative, and received approval to proceed with the conversion, then the applicant may stop watering the lawn. An authorized PCWA representative must validate the lawn areas before an applicant starts the conversion project.

10. Can I receive credit for replacing my high water use grass with a low water-use grass?

No. This program provides incentive to convert grass to alternative types of landscaping, including trees, shrubs and groundcovers. These use less water than even the lowest water-use grass. However, the Agency does encourage homeowners to use low water-use grass in those areas where grass is needed or desired outside of this program.

11. What is mulch and why is it used?

The most common types of mulch are decorative rock or bark. Mulch helps maintain the soil's moisture level. Without mulch, wind and heat cause soil moisture loss resulting in more water being needed to keep plants healthy. Soil temperature constantly fluctuates, causing plant stress, so wood mulches help moderate soil temperature. Additional benefits include the reduction of weed growth and soil

erosion. If mulch is used to satisfy the non-plant material requirement, a minimum 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch is suggested.

12. What if my Homeowner's Association or CC&Rs requires me to keep lawn in my yard?

It is the applicant's responsibility to follow all applicable laws, rules, appropriate HOA and CC&R policies that may apply to any anticipated landscaping project.

13. Do I get credit for removing my high water-use plants?

No. This program focuses solely on the removal of water thirsty lawn. However, most shrub beds may be watered more effectively by converting the irrigation system to a drip irrigation system.

14. I have many plants surrounding the lawn that I'm removing. Will these plants count toward the square footage of the converted area?

No. The Agency only counts those plants that are either currently planted in the lawn area or those that are added to the area where the lawn is to be removed and converted, such that the trunk or stem of the plant is in the converted area.

15. Why is the use of low water-use plants required?

This program requires the use of water-efficient landscaping. Attractive, efficient landscaping will encourage others to do the same. Trees, shrubs and groundcovers provide shade, absorb carbon dioxide, supply oxygen, reduce soil erosion, give wildlife a home, decrease energy use, reduce storm water runoff and save water. Low water-use plants greatly help to reduce water consumption.

16. If I chose to create a water-efficient landscape in the conversion area do the plants need to cover that area when you come and inspect my landscape?

An applicant can choose plants at any size. Planting smaller plants (1 gallon) are less expensive and have a tendency to adapt better to their new environment. The program applies the full mature value of the plant type to determine plant coverage.

17. I don't like the desert look. What are my options?

Water-efficient landscaping can be much more than rocks and cactus. There are numerous low water-use plants that use very little, if any, water (at maturity). With proper design and plant selection, an applicant can accomplish almost any look or feel and still save water.

18. Do I have to use a weed barrier?

Weed barriers are recommended but not required in areas that have a particular weed problem (i.e. areas where Bermuda grass is being removed or under permeable surfaces such as patios and walkways where plants will not be grown). If a weed barrier is used, it should be permeable allowing both water and air to penetrate.



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Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Re: Lawn Replacement Rebate Pilot Program Letter of Interest
Account Number: _____

Service Address: _____

I am interested in participating in the PCWA Lawn Replacement Rebate Pilot Program and have reviewed the Rebate Program Requirements.

Please send me all Program materials so I can schedule a pre-conversion site visit.

Customer Signature

Date

Phone Number

Customer to mail or deliver signed Letter of Interest to:

**PCWA Business Center
P.O. Box 6570
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95604
530.823.4850**

For PCWA Use Only
Application issued by _____ Date _____