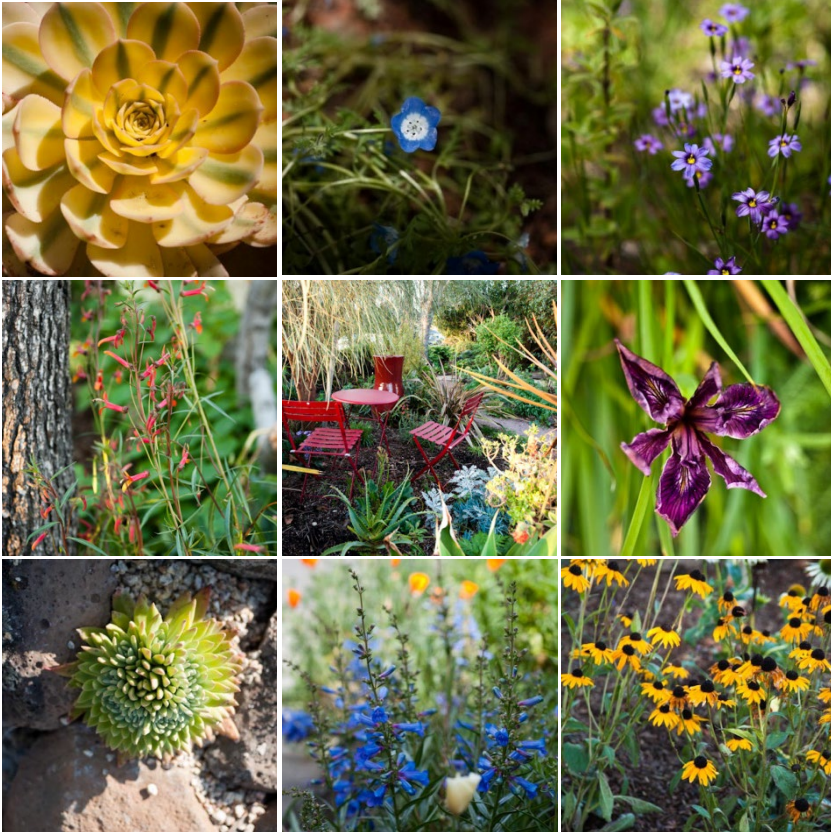


Alameda County Water District
510.668.4218
www.acwd.org



Photos by Stephanie Penn



Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program



Photo by Stephanie Penn

Trade in your water-thirsty lawn for a water-efficient landscape, and you will get money back for doing it!

Get a Rebate of up to \$3,000 or 20,000*

**Rebate is based on \$2.00 per square foot of lawn converted to water-efficient landscape. Single family residential customers are eligible for up to \$3,000. Commercial and industrial customers, multifamily homes, and HOAs are eligible for up to \$20,000. Funding is limited and may be exhausted without prior notice.*



Program Information

Alameda County Water District (ACWD) is offering rebates to customers who replace their lawn with a water-efficient landscape. These beautiful new landscapes can save you money on water bills, fertilizers, pesticides and maintenance.

How do I participate?

- 1) Carefully measure the lawn area you want to convert.
- 2) Fill out and submit the attached application. Include pre-conversion site photos, a proposed project plant list, and a site map with project area measurements.
- 3) ACWD will review your application and inspect submitted materials to determine if your project meets program requirements*. If it does, ACWD will send a Notice to Proceed.
- 4) Complete the project within 90 days from the approval date.
- 5) Submit post-conversion site photos, the receipts from materials purchased, and a W-9 so ACWD can inspect these materials to confirm program requirements were met*.
- 6) If project is compliant, **you will receive your rebate!**

**ACWD reserves the right to conduct an onsite pre-or post-inspection if additional information is needed. Customers must participate in an onsite inspection if required. Check with ACWD to ensure availability of funds.*



Program Details

Resources

Visit www.acwd.org/rebates for help with your Water-Efficient Landscape Project:

- Frequently Asked Questions & Information about water-efficient plants appropriate for this program and links to several helpful websites and online tools.

Rebate Amounts

- Rebate amount is **\$2.00 per square foot** of lawn converted.
- Rebate amount will cover the cost of qualifying expenses (landscape materials only) paid by the customer up to the maximum rebate amount.
- Maximum rebate amount is **\$3,000** per single family residential site and **\$20,000** for commercial, industrial, and institutional sites, multi-family homes and HOAs. For customers with multiple sites, the total rebate per customer will be capped at the maximum rebate amount regardless of the number of sites converted.

Water-Efficient Landscape Program Qualifications

- All application materials must be received, reviewed, and approved by ACWD before **ANY** work on the site is done.
- Customers must convert a minimum of 200 square feet of lawn, a majority of which must be visible from the street.
- Landscaped areas outside the lawn conversion area will not be included in the rebate calculation, i.e., eligible square footage.
- The site must be served by an ACWD water account and the account must be in good standing.



Terms and Conditions

Application Process

- To apply, customers must submit the following required documents to ACWD:
 1. Completed application
 2. Proposed plant list for the converted area
 3. Current photos of the site (altered photos are disqualified)
 4. Site map (in aerial view) of the proposed project including measurements to explain the total area of lawn to be converted
- ACWD will review the application and inspect submitted materials to determine if the project meets program requirements. Approved projects will receive a **Notice to Proceed** from ACWD.
- Projects must be completed within 90 days of ACWD approval (Notice to Proceed), unless ACWD approves additional time.
- Lawn removals or replacements that are initiated prior to approval and the receipt of a Notice to Proceed from ACWD will not be eligible.
- If applicant is not the property owner, written permission to participate in this water efficient landscape rebate program from the property owner is required.

Qualifying Water-Efficient Landscape Projects:

- California native or climate-appropriate plants that require little or no supplemental irrigation are required. Please visit www.acwd.org/rebates for resources on appropriate plants.
- Converted areas must have a minimum of 50% plant cover.
- Permeable hardscape such as pavers, bricks or flagstone set in sand, gravel or decomposed granite may be used for up to 50% of the project area. Water must pass through or be absorbed by landscaping materials.

Terms and Conditions

Qualifying Water-Efficient Landscape Projects (continued):

- Sheet mulching must be at least four inches in depth.
- All planted areas must have at least a three-inch layer of mulch.

Irrigation:

- An irrigation system is not required in the converted area. If converted area is irrigated, only low volume drip systems are allowed.
- Existing irrigation system within the converted area must be capped in-place, converted to drip irrigation system, or removed.
- A new irrigation system installed in the converted area must be equipped with proper backflow prevention, a rainfall shutoff valve, a pressure regulator, filter and pressure compensating emitters.
- The irrigation system in the converted area must be in good working order and free of leaks and malfunctions.

Non-Qualifying Projects:

- Plant material that requires regular water and is not adapted to a summer-dry climate.
- Artificial lawn/turf installations.
- Non-biodegradable weed-block material.
- Exposed soil surfaces (exceptions may be made for enhancing insect habitat).
- Overhead spray/sprinkler systems.
- Impermeable surfaces such as concrete, bricks or flagstone mortared into place.
- Projects that replace turf grass with low water use turf.



Terms and Conditions

Post-Conversion Process

- The Applicant is responsible for notifying ACWD that the project is complete and for submitting all required post-conversion documents:
 1. Final **list of plants** used in the project
 2. **Receipts** for all landscaping materials; rebates will not be issued for labor, rentals, or tools.
 3. **W-9 Tax Form**. Rebates will not be processed without a completed W-9.
 4. Post-conversion **site photos** including photos of irrigation system, if applicable, while running and turned off.
- ACWD will review the application and inspect submitted materials to determine if your project meets program requirements.
- You will be given thirty (30) days, or the remainder of the 90 day period, whichever is greater, to bring the site into compliance with the program requirements if it is not.
- Once a project has been completed and approved, rebates will be issued to the customers in the form of a check.
- **Rebate checks may take 6 to 8 weeks** to process following post-conversion approval. Rebates may be considered taxable income. Please consult with your tax accountant to determine what impact this may have on your tax situation
- The converted area must remain converted for at least three (3) years following receipt of the rebate.
- You may be charged for some, or all, of the rebate amount at the discretion of ACWD if the Applicant does not maintain the converted area during this three year period.



Application Checklist

Application checklist

- Did you read this application thoroughly?
- Did you measure only the lawn area to be converted and is a majority of the area visible from the street?
- Are you converting a minimum of 200 square feet of lawn?
- Have you prepared all the application materials required?

Lawn conversion checklist

My plan includes one or more of the following (please check all that apply):

- A minimum of 50 percent plant cover
- Drip irrigation only (if area is to be irrigated)
- A minimum of 3" layer of mulch in planted areas
- Climate-appropriate plants that require little or no supplemental irrigation
- Permeable hardscape

Check to make sure that your plan does not include the following:

- No artificial turf
- No non-biodegradable weed-block material
- No overhead spray/sprinkler systems
- No exposed soil surfaces
- No inclusion of areas that are not lawn
- No impermeable hardscape (i.e. cement, flagstone mortared into place)



