



Turf Removal Rebate Program

Terms and Conditions

NOTE: PLEASE CAREFULLY READ ALL OF THE RULES OUTLINED BELOW. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROGRAM WILL DISQUALIFY YOU AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE REBATE MONEY.

Requirements to Qualify for the Rebate:

1. Project site must be located within California American Water's San Diego County service district.
2. The applicant's water bill must be in good standing.
3. The applicant's water bill must have a higher usage in the warm and hot season than in the cool season, to show that the lawn has been watered regularly even if it's currently browning. This is to ensure their will be a savings to show after the conversion.
4. Existing turf in project area must be living; recent browning of the landscape is acceptable. Areas with dirt patches are not eligible. Refer to the visual aids below.



5. A pre-inspection must be performed by a California American Water Conservation Specialist before any work has started on the site. Due to high popularity of the program it will take about two to four weeks to be schedule.
6. A post-inspection must be performed by a California American Water Conservation Specialist after the renovation is complete.
7. Landscape Design Class is required, website <https://www.amwater.com/caaw/Conservation/District-Resources/San-Diego/>
8. Lawns removed prior to pre-inspection are not eligible for rebates. Grass must be living in the ground when the Conservation Specialist arrives for the pre-inspection. Even if the grass was recently removed and kept on site your project will still be disqualified.
9. Minimum project conversion area is 100 square feet.
10. Maximum project conversion area is 750 sq. ft. (for residential)

After the Conservation team evaluates your site, they will send you a letter either explaining your denial from the program or offering an approval for the proposed project. Once you are officially approved your project will not be affected by budget depletion. This letter should be received within two weeks of the pre-inspection and the date on the approval letter is the start date for your project. You have 120 days from that date to complete your renovation. After you have finished please call to schedule your post-inspection.

Requirements of Your Completed Site to Receive the Rebate:

Converted area must be a drought tolerant garden.

Drought Tolerant Gardens:

1. All grass must be removed from the project site.
2. No invasive plants. Refer to this website for a list of invasive plants and some good alternatives <https://sustainablelandscapesd.org/>
3. At least half of the square footage of the project site must be covered with drought tolerant plants. This measurement is calculated by totaling the area of the plants at their full maturity. Refer to the attached example.
4. A drip or micro spray irrigation system must be installed, with an emitter at each plant. The pressure regulator and filter must be installed either at the valve, or as a spray-to-drip retrofit kit that converts sprinkler heads to drip. A standard sprinkler spray system is not an eligible alternative and if your system is not updated you will disqualify from the program.



5. The ground has to be covered with any of the following options: creeping plants, gravel, loose flagstone, decomposed granite or with a 2" layer of mulch. All exposed soil must be covered.
6. Converted areas must be permeable to air and water. A part of the natural process of water is for it to be absorbed by the ground after it rains to replenish fresh water supplies. A consequence of development is that a lot of water is channeled away from properties and down storm drains into our oceans. This is why California American Water requires permeability for all hardscapes that are installed in our rebate program in an effort to restore the natural water cycle. Examples of permeable hardscape include any type of peddle or rock since water can pass through that easily. Stepping stones and flagstones are also expectable since they have large enough spacing in their placement to let water pass through to the ground. However, hardscapes like concrete or brick have little or no allowance for water passage causing the water to wash over it and then travel to a storm drain. Weed barriers must also be permeable, plastic sheeting is not permeable and will not qualify.



7. The entirety or majority of your renovated landscape cannot be rock beds. A rock swell to catch rainwater is highly encouraged.



8. Conversions must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions. Please check your City's guidelines.
9. Project site must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years, or for the duration of ownership of the property (whichever is shortest). Failure to meet this requirement may require customer to refund all or a portion of the rebate.

After your post-inspection the Conservation team will review your information to verify that you are in compliance and then began to process your post application.

- We recommend reviewing this site for resources <https://sustainablelandscapessd.org/guidelines/>
- Less than 50 percent of the landscape contains hardscape

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Basic Site Plan Drawing