



Learn Inside the Triangle™

# Lawn and Turf Removal and Replacement Rebate Program FAQ

## **How much is the rebate amount?**

The rebate amount is **up to** \$1.00 sq/ft of lawn/turf removed and replaced for a maximum of:

\$1,500 Maximum Rebate for Single Family Residential Customers  
\$4,500 Maximum Rebate for Multi-Family and Commercial Customers

## **What are the eligibility requirements for the program?**

Visit the City of Tracy Water Efficiency and Conservation Incentives and Rebates website at [Water Conservation and Efficiency Rebates and Incentives | City of Tracy, CA](#) and look for the link to the “*Terms and Conditions for the Lawn and Turf Removal and Replacement Rebate Program*” along the left side of the page.

## **How do I take advantage of the rebate offer to convert my lawn or turf to a drought tolerant landscape or xeriscape?**

Before beginning your proposed project, review the Eligibility requirements in the Terms and Conditions by visiting the City of Tracy Water Efficiency and Conservation Incentives and Rebates programs at [Water Conservation and Efficiency Rebates and Incentives | City of Tracy, CA](#). *Projects that have begun removal of lawn or turf prior to receiving a Notice to Proceed from the City of Tracy are not eligible.* No exceptions.

## **I’ve already replaced my lawn with water efficient plants. Can I still get a rebate?**

No. The rebate is not retroactive and is not applicable to projects that were started prior to receiving a pre-project approval for rebate eligibility. The program is intended to provide an incentive to retrofit existing lawns.

## **I don’t have an inground irrigation system, I hand water my lawn. Can I get a rebate?**

No. The rebate is currently for customers who irrigate with an in-ground irrigation system.

## **I want to replace my high-water use lawn with a low water use lawn. Does that Qualify?**

No. The program provides incentive to convert lawns to alternative types of water-efficient landscaping including native bunch grasses. One of the goals of the program is to provide visible examples of water-efficient landscapes that can be alternatives to lawns.

## **Once my proposed project is approved, how long do I have to complete the project?**

The approved project must be completed within six (6) months after receiving your Notice to Proceed from the City of Tracy Utilities Department.



Photo credit: Gino Piscelli

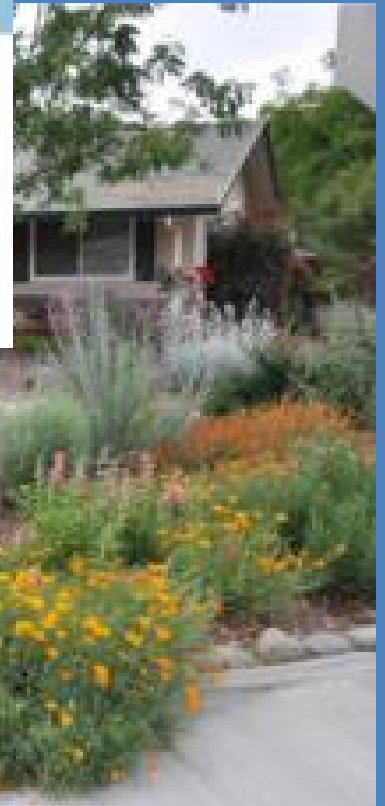


Photo Courtesy of UCCE

**I want to replace my lawn with artificial turf or synthetic grass. Does this qualify for the rebate?**

No, if you use artificial turf or synthetic grass in your project area, the area that it covers will be deducted from your project area when calculating your rebate amount. Also, the goal of this program is to reduce water use through water-efficient landscapes and alternatives to lawn/turf and provide a visual example of this program.

**What can I replace my lawn with to qualify for the rebate?**

You may choose from a wide variety of California natives, very low or low water use plants, and/or permeable hardscapes such as permeable pavers, gravel, flagstone, decomposed granite, artificial turf, etc. The newly landscaped area must be covered by more than fifty percent (50%) with plants that are local climate adaptable and approved for the City of Tracy. To determine mature plant size, consult the Sunset Western Garden Book ( [Plant Collection | Sunset Western Garden Collection](#) ) or Water Use Classification of Landscape Species IV (WUCOLS) ( [Home Page - Water Use Classification of Landscape Species \(WUCOLS IV\) \(ucanr.edu\)](#) ).

### **Do I have to use mulch to be eligible?**

Yes, all non-planted area must be covered with at least 3” of mulch material. If a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water.

### **What materials do not qualify for a rebate?**

Non-qualifying materials include: seed, sod, vegetable gardens, vineyards, medium and high-water use plants, lawn ornaments, decking, curbing, hottubs, pools, building extensions, retaining walls, sheds, trellises, playground materials, and fences.

Impervious surfaces such as cement, concrete and pavers/stone (that are cemented in) also do not qualify for the rebate. If these materials are used, they cannot be more than 20% of the entire project and will not be counted in the total area measurement in calculating the rebate amount. NOTE: the fifty percent (50%) plant covering requirement still applies to the entire area, therefore, more plants may be needed in the remaining areas.

### **Can I continue to use my overhead sprinkler system?**

No, the existing sprinklers in the lawn removal area must be removed, capped in place or converted to low volume drip, microspray or bubbler. Any remaining landscape near the converted area must be irrigated with a separate valve.

### **Do I have to install a new irrigation system?**

An irrigation system is not required, however, a separately valved drip, microspray and/or bubbler system with a filter and pressure regulation is allowed in the converted landscape area. The system must be maintained in good working order, free of leaks and malfunctions and designed for zero runoff.

For further information please contact the Water Resources and Compliance Division Offices at 209-831-6339.

### **Water Efficient Landscape Resources**

Department of Water Resources - <https://saveourwater.com/>

Sunset Western Garden - [Plant Collection | Sunset Western Garden Collection](#)

UCCE Master Gardeners of San Joaquin County - [https://sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu/Water\\_Conservation\\_/Low\\_water\\_landscapes/](https://sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu/Water_Conservation_/Low_water_landscapes/)

Water Smart Gardening Websites - <https://www.watersmartgardening.com/> (please look at Central Valley Websites for examples)

WUCOLS IV - [Home Page - Water Use Classification of Landscape Species \(WUCOLS IV\) \(ucanr.edu\)](#)