



Residential Turf Replacement Program

About the Program

This program rewards landscape designs that incorporate water-saving plants, technology, irrigation systems and hardware. Replace your lawn with a beautiful California Friendly® and native landscape that helps you save a significant amount of water and provides a home for birds, butterflies and beneficial pollinators. Rebates start at \$2 per square foot and may be more depending on additional local water agency incentives.



Eligibility

- A maximum of 5,000 square feet of turf removed per home is eligible for funding each fiscal year.
- The project must have a minimum of 250 square feet of turf removed in the front yard, or if the entire front yard is less than 250 square feet, all turf must be removed.
- There is a limit of one application per home per year.
- Areas which have already had turf removed are not eligible.
- Eligible areas for transformation include front yards and back yards.

Program Requirements

Turf replacement projects must include:

Three California Friendly® and native plants per 100 square feet of lawn transformed.

A stormwater retention feature to help keep water in your yard when it rains. Rock gardens and rain barrels are among several sustainable landscaping approaches you can take.

Permeable hardscapes that allow water to flow through the surface and slowly filter into the ground.

A replacement or modification of overhead spray sprinklers to a more water efficient irrigation system.



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Water\$mart

Sustainable Landscaping

Every day
is a chance to
save water.



Sustainable landscaping approaches help capture rainwater to keep it in your garden and reduce runoff onto sidewalks and streets. The following are some of the eligible methods that meet this program requirement.

RAIN GARDENS – A planted depression or a hollow filled with loose soil that allows rainwater runoff from urban areas like roofs, driveways, walkways and parking lots to be absorbed into the ground. Storm water soaks into the ground instead of flowing into storm drains and surface waters, helping reduce erosion, pollution, flooding and diminished groundwater.

ROCK GARDENS – features large or decorative rocks and incorporates plants that are particularly adapted for growth in tight spaces, hillsides or well-drained soils. Garden plants grow between the rocks and are typically low-growing and drought-tolerant.

DRY RIVER BEDS – a dry river bed or dry stream design slows heavy runoff flows from rainfall and minimize erosion. It is made up of a shallow swale that is lined with varying sizes of stones. Large stones help withstand a serious downpour and anchor the other stones in the dry bed, slowing storm water runoff. In a garden, the careful placement of water-worn stones, or river slicks, along a swale can be aesthetically pleasing, providing ideal places for select plants to grow.

SWALES – Shallow ditches that have gently sloping sides and rely on gravity to move water to specific areas of your garden. Swales can be designed to direct water to flower or vegetable gardens and can be used to limit runoff as well as to trap silt and pollutants typically found in surface water runoff.

BERMS – mounds of earth with sloping sides that are located between areas of approximately the same elevation. Berms direct or redirect drainage to keep water from quickly flowing off the property.

GRADES – Surface grading of an area allows water to collect and flow to a lower elevation or desired location. Regardless of surface characteristics, when it comes to drainage, slope is the most important issue to consider. For efficient drainage, paved surfaces should have a minimum 1-percent slope. Turf or landscaped areas should have a minimum slope of 2 percent.

RAIN BARREL/CISTERNS – storage units that capture runoff water from a catchment area such as a rooftop. Cisterns are essentially large-scale rain barrels. Rain barrels and cisterns must be connected to properly installed rain gutters and downspouts. The property must have existing gutters throughout the entire perimeter of the roof for adequate water collection, as well as also existing downspouts. Rain barrels and cisterns must be properly installed and meet all local and regional requirements. Existing rain barrels and cisterns qualify provided they have been properly installed.



Irrigation modification or conversion is required for all projects:

- Convert over-head sprays to drip, micro-spray, bubblers, or rotating nozzles, whichever is applicable; or
- Cap sprinkler heads or remove irrigation equipment and hand-water instead

Not allowed: synthetic turf or any plant that appears to be turf. This rule applies because installation is often verified by photographs.

Applicants have 180 days to complete the project and are responsible for complying with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions and restrictions. Receipts will be requested, but not required.

Program Recommendations

- How-to videos can help guide your transformation
- We recommend the installation of a smart controller
- Check "Gardening with California Natives" on bewaterwise.com for a list of helpful resources

Questions

Please contact socalwatersmart.com (operators are available to answer questions in several languages) at 888.376.3314.



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SoCal Water\$mart is a region-wide program brought to you by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Local water agencies may offer other incentive program opportunities. Rebates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.