



# City of Flagstaff Turf Reduction Rebate Water Conservation Program



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## PURPOSE

Landscape irrigation accounts for the largest use of water in Flagstaff during summer months. By installing low water use drought tolerant landscaping and removing high water using turf (grass), outdoor water use will be reduced. Water efficient landscapes can be full of color and variety. The intent of this proposal is to encourage a permanent reduction in the amount of water used for landscaping purposes at homes and businesses.

Customers who choose to convert high water consuming turf areas will be eligible to apply for a minimum \$500 rebate. Rebates will be issued until funds are exhausted. The rebate is a one-time credit per property for City of Flagstaff water customers and all criteria stated below must be met.

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## CRITERIA

- A **minimum of 1500 square feet** of established turf must be removed and replaced with Xeriscape plants.
- Rebate amounts are:

1,500 – 2,999 square feet = \$500

3,000 – 3,999 square feet = \$600

4,000 – 4,999 square feet = \$800

\$200 for each additional 1,000 square feet removed up to \$3,000 maximum for 15,000 square feet.

- At least 50% of the eligible area (estimated at maturity), must be replaced with low water use plant material, excluding low water turf.
- Only low water use plants qualify.
- Low water use turf qualifies if less than 25% of total conversion and no larger than 500 square feet in larger projects. Areas of turf outside the conversion area are allowed.
- A rebate of up to \$3,000 will be given for converting common or Homeowner Association (HOA) turf areas for turf removed in excess of 3,000 square feet. A rebate of \$200 per 1,000 square feet of converted area will be awarded.
- Landscape fabrics **MUST** be installed for weed control. It must allow water to penetrate to the ground and no plastic materials are allowed as they do not allow water to soak through.
- Excessive use of rock products and artificial turf in expansive areas are strongly discouraged. **They may cover exposed dirt if less than 20% of total conversion.**
- The soil around plants must be covered with 2" of bark or wood mulch.

- Only drip irrigation is permissible if a permanent irrigation system is installed. Spray irrigation is not permitted in the rebate area. Areas watered with sprinklers including micro-sprinklers will not disqualify your project, but will be excluded from the rebate area.
  - No fountains or ponds may exist on the property.
  - Follow the principles of Xeriscape™:
    - Proper landscape planning and design
    - Low water use plants
    - Appropriate turf areas
    - Efficient irrigation
    - Soil improvements
    - Use of mulches
    - Appropriate maintenance
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## **PROCESS**

- Contact the City of Flagstaff Utilities office at (928) 213-4837 to schedule a preliminary site inspection by City staff. This is necessary to confirm eligibility in the program prior to the customer starting replacement of the turf. The inspection includes water conservation staff photographing and measuring the site as well as delivery of educational materials. A minimum of 1,500 square feet of high water use landscape must be replaced with Xeriscape.
- Complete and sign the rebate application form and return to the Water Conservation Office along with a proposed site plan sketch showing the changes you wish to make on the property. The site plan sketch should show the area to be converted with appropriate measurements to and from the street, driveway, patios, walks and/or buildings. Landscapable area does not include hardscape such as driveways, patios and walks.
- Proposed projects must demonstrate a reduction in water use and follow the principles of Xeriscape. Preapproval of plants you plan to use is a requirement to insure Xeriscape plants are used. This will allow time to select low water use plants if necessary before purchases are made.
- Property owner must provide a list of low water use plant materials used and copies of dated sales receipts.
- Funds are limited. Rebates will be processed until funds are depleted.
- Upon completion of your landscape renovation, please contact the Water Conservation Office to schedule a final inspection. The Water Conservation Office will take photographs of the completed project. The rebate form (application) will be then be processed for those sites that met the qualifications. Contact the Water Conservation Office to schedule a final inspection at (928) 213-4837 or [rharrington@flagstaffaz.gov](mailto:rharrington@flagstaffaz.gov).