

Lawn Replacement Rebate Program

REBATE SUMMARY

A **\$0.50 per square foot rebate** is available for lawn removed and replaced with approved water-efficient landscaping. This rebate is available for single-family or multi-family residential properties. Rebate requires a minimum of 100 square feet of lawn removed and a maximum of 1,000 square feet of lawn removed.

In traditional landscapes, lawns receive the highest percentage of irrigation water and are often planted in underutilized areas. As a result, landscapes with large expanses of lawn generally use more water than those with a mixture of other plants. On the other hand, water-efficient landscapes can use up to 50% less water, depending on the amount of lawn removed, type of plants installed, type of irrigation system, and soil type.

Many people mistakenly believe that stunning gardens and beautiful lawns are only possible through extensive watering, fertilization, and pesticide application. However, eye-catching gardens and landscapes that save water and protect the environment are, in fact, easily achieved by employing water-efficient landscaping. Not only does a water-efficient landscape use less water, it also requires less maintenance.

The Water Conservation Program recommends that customers request a Water-Wise Landscape Consultation prior to removing a lawn. This free service is provided by the Water Conservation Program and includes recommendations for water-wise plants suitable for the Fresno area, irrigation installation, and lawn removal. Customers may request this service through the FresGO app or by calling the City of Fresno's 311 Center at (559) 621-CITY or by dialing 3-1-1 within City limits.

LAWN REPLACEMENT REBATE PROCESS

1. Obtain and complete an application.
2. Take required preliminary photos and measurements.
3. Submit a completed application, along with the required photos and drawings, to:

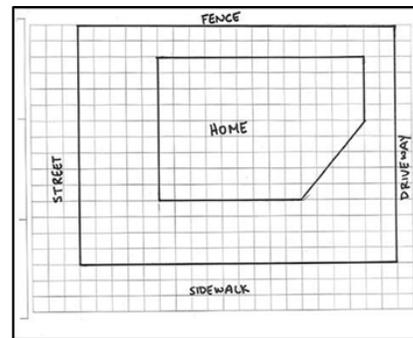
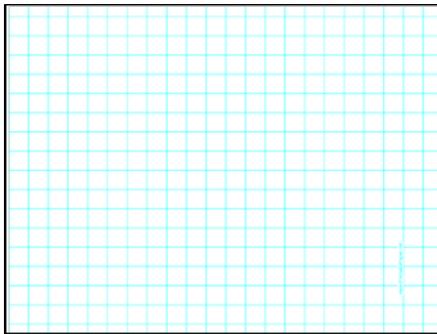
City of Fresno Water Division
Water Conservation Program
1910 E. University Avenue
Fresno, CA 93703
or waterconservation@fresno.gov
4. Water Conservation Program staff will review the application and will notify the customer via phone or email of the determination (approval or denial).
5. Applicant must complete the renovation and submit the final rebate documentation **within 120 days** from the date of application approval, take the required photos of the finished landscape, and submit the photos to the Water Conservation Program for final rebate approval.
6. Once final approval is granted, the rebate will be processed and a check will be mailed within 6-9 weeks.

MEASURING YOUR LAWN AREA

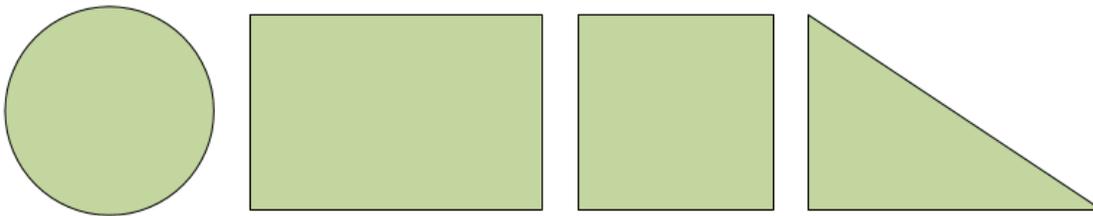
1. Make a drawing of your home and borders of your yard. Write in descriptions of areas near the lawn to help orient yourself.
2. Divide the project area into easily measured shapes (square, rectangle, triangle, circle, etc.)
3. Take measurements and calculate the square footage of each shape.
4. Add the square footage of all shapes to find the total square footage.
5. Add those calculated areas to your drawing.

Graph paper works well for drawings. Free printable graph paper templates are available online. There are many online calculator tools that will calculate the square footage of common shapes. Demonstrations on how to measure lawns can be found on YouTube.

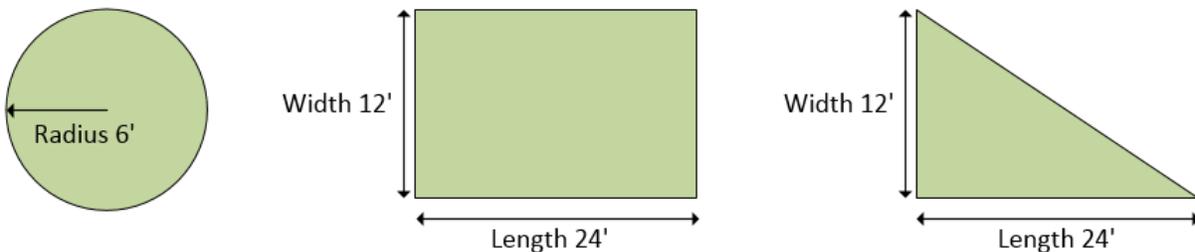
1. Make a drawing of your home and borders of your yard. Include landmarks and descriptions on your drawing.



2. Divide the project area into easily measured shapes.



3. Take measurements and calculate the square footage of each shape.



4. Add the square footage of all shapes to find the total square footage

Calculation formulas:

Square or rectangle: Length x Width = Square Footage

Triangle: Length x Width ÷ 2 = Square Footage

Circle: $\pi \times \text{Radius}^2 = \text{Square Footage}$

5. Add the calculated areas to your drawing.

LAWN REPLACEMENT REBATE PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS

Qualifying Applicants

Customers who pay a water utility bill to the City of Fresno and who have property with existing single-family or multi-family dwellings qualify to receive the Lawn Replacement Rebate. Renters or tenants must provide written approval from the property owner or property manager for lawn replacement. New construction does not qualify.

Rebate Application Requirements

Applicants must attach the following documents with their Lawn Replacement Rebate Application:

- a. At least three (3) clear, color, dated photos of the areas where the lawn is planned to be removed. Photos must include the home, street, or fence as a reference point.
- b. A drawing with measurements of the lawn area to be removed. Irrigation changes should also be indicated on the drawing. Drawings must include landmarks such as sidewalks, fences, driveways, etc.

Once the initial application is approved, applicants must install new landscape material that meets the rebate requirements and submit the final rebate documentation **within 120 days of application approval**. When the project is complete, the applicant must submit at least three (3) clear, color, dated photos of each area where the lawn was removed and replacement landscaping was installed. Applicants will be notified if an inspection is required for final approval.

Rebate Requirements

1. Projects that have been started or completed prior to the Water Conservation Program's review and approval of the rebate application will **NOT** be eligible for this rebate.
2. Lawn may be living or dead at the time of application. Evidence of previous lawn such as existing lawn, borders, remnants of a lawn, or existing operational lawn irrigation systems are also acceptable. Bare earth areas with no sign of a previous lawn are not eligible for this rebate.
3. The lawn, or evidence of previous lawn, must still be in place at the time of application approval.
4. This program does not specify the method of lawn removal.
5. The rebated portion of the converted landscape must include plants in a minimum of 25% of the converted area at maturity.
6. The rebated portion of the converted landscape may only include low water use, drought-tolerant, or California native plants.
7. At least one tree, either existing or new, must be incorporated into the converted landscape.
8. All exposed soil surfaces must be covered with approved mulch. Approved mulch types are organic material, rock, rubber bark, or decomposed granite. No more than 25% of the converted area may have decomposed granite or rubber bark soil coverage.
9. The City of Fresno allows artificial turf in the rebated portion of the converted landscape, but the converted landscape must include plants in a minimum of 25% of the converted area at maturity.
10. Impervious decks or patios are not allowed as part of the rebated converted landscape.
11. Structures such as outbuildings or sheds are not allowed as part of the rebated footage of the converted landscape.
12. Paving stones, pavers, and brick patios are permitted but must be filled with loose material. No concrete or impermeable grouting may be used to affix the pavers in place.
13. Lawn replacement and landscape conversion **must be completed within 120 days** of application approval.
14. Incomplete, incorrect, or unsigned applications cannot be processed and will be returned to the applicant. Applicants must fulfill all program requirements to be eligible for a rebate.

LAWN REPLACEMENT REBATE PROGRAM **GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS**

Rebate Details

The final rebate amount cannot be larger than the maximum Lawn Replacement Rebate amount, even if additional square footage is replaced. The rebate amount is \$0.50 per square foot of lawn that is replaced with water-efficient landscaping. A minimum of 100 square feet of lawn must be replaced. The rebate maximum is 1,000 square feet of lawn replaced. It is important that applicants measure and calculate the project area correctly.

Lawn removal and water-efficient landscaping installation must be completed at the approved service address listed on the applicant's City of Fresno water utility billing account. Lawn may not be reinstalled at any time while the applicant maintains ownership of the property. If a lawn is reinstalled during the applicant's ownership of the property, the entire rebate must be refunded to the City.

By submitting an application, applicants agree to an inspection to verify the Lawn Replacement Rebate. Rebates will only be awarded after verification of proper installation and compliance with the Requirements of this rebate.

Rebate checks will be mailed 6-9 weeks after final approval.

Important Notes

- The Water Conservation Program is not responsible for materials lost by mail.
- Possession or submission of a rebate application does not guarantee a rebate approval.
- Rebates are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Funding for the Lawn Replacement Rebate Program is limited to available resources.
- Rebate amounts are subject to change without notification.
- The Lawn Replacement Rebate Program is subject to change or termination without notice.
- The City of Fresno is not responsible for product performance or water savings. There is no warranty or guarantee of the products or vendor used.



Lawn Replacement Rebate Application

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It is recommended that customers request a Water-Wise Landscape Consultation prior to removing a lawn. This free service is provided by the Water Conservation Program and includes recommendations for water-wise plants suitable for the Fresno area, irrigation installation, and lawn removal. Customers may request this service through the FresGO app or by calling the City of Fresno's 311 Center at (559) 621-CITY or by dialing 3-1-1 within City limits.

Date: _____

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Utility Account Number: _____

Name on Account: _____

Account Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Alt. Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Renters/Tenants Only:

Renter/Tenant participation requires written approval from Property Owner. (Attach to Application)

Property Owner Name: _____

Property Owner Mailing Address: _____

Property Owner Phone Number: _____

Property Owner E-Mail Address: _____

BUILDING INFORMATION

Complete the information below as it applies to the installation address.

Building Type (select one): Single Family Residence Multi-Family Residence/Duplex
 Mobile Home Condominium/Townhouse PUD or HOA Shared Billing Account

REBATE INFORMATION

Completed lawn replacement must be verified prior to issuance of rebate. Incomplete applications will be returned. Photos and drawings of landscaping plans (including measurements) must be included with the initial application. Applicants must fulfill all program requirements to be eligible for a rebate.

Rebate being requested: _____ square feet x \$0.50 per square foot = \$_____ Total Rebate Amount
(To be calculated on the back side of this form. Please copy totals into this space.)

How did you learn about this rebate? _____

Would you have removed a lawn at this time if the City of Fresno did not offer a rebate? Yes___ No___

Send completed application and all required documentation to:

City of Fresno Water Division, Water Conservation Program
1910 E. University Avenue, Fresno, CA 93703
or waterconservation@fresno.gov

*****Incomplete applications will be returned*****

LAWN REPLACEMENT INFORMATION

Complete all of the required information below. When submitting application, include at least three (3) clear, color, dated photos of the areas where a lawn is planned to be removed. Photos must include the home, street, or fence as a reference point. A drawing with measurements of the lawn area to be removed is also required. Irrigation changes should also be indicated on the drawing. Drawings must include landmarks such as sidewalks, fences, driveways, etc.

Once the initial application is approved, applicants must install new landscape material that meets the rebate requirements **within 120 days of application approval**. When the project is complete, the applicant must submit at least three (3) clear, color, dated photos of each area where lawn was removed and replacement landscaping was installed. Applicants will be notified if an inspection is required for final approval.

Proposed Project Start Date: _____
Square footage of lawn to be replaced: _____ Type of lawn being removed: _____
Location of lawn replacement: Front Back Side Other: _____
Replacement materials to be installed (check all that apply): Drought-tolerant plants Mulch
 Un-grouted stepping stones Permeable hardscape Artificial turf Rock
Average gallons of water used in the year prior to application: _____

Rebate being requested: _____ square feet x \$0.50 per square foot = \$_____ Total Rebate Amount
(Please copy the information above into the Rebate Information section on the other side of this form)

AGREEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The City of Fresno (City) may deny any application that does not meet program requirements. The undersigned expressly agrees that the City may inspect all items submitted for the Lawn Replacement Rebate Program; that the City does not guarantee the performance of any replacement item; and that the City does not warrant any replacement item or installation to be free of defects, the quality of workmanship, or the suitability of the premises for installation. The undersigned further agrees to hold harmless the City of Fresno against all loss, damage, expense, and liability resulting from the loss, destruction, or damage to property arising out of or in any way connected with the Lawn Replacement Rebate. The City reserves the right to alter this program at any time. Funding for this rebate program is limited to available resources. Rebates are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, please contact the Water Conservation Program at (559) 621-5480.

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of this rebate program.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Application Status: Approved Denied Reason: _____
Actual Project Start Date: _____ Project Completion Date: _____
Verified without Inspection: Yes No Verified by: _____
Inspection Date: _____ Tracking #: _____ Inspector: _____
Comments: _____
Final Approval by: _____ Date: _____

Approved Rebate: _____ square feet x \$0.50 per square foot = \$_____ Total Rebate Amount

Date to Accounting: _____

ACCOUNTING: Check mailed: _____ By: _____ Voucher No. _____