



[www.removeyourturf.com](http://www.removeyourturf.com)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Water Wise 2.0 Incentive Program

**1. How does the Program work?** The Ventura Water Wise Incentive Program has a goal to assist Ventura residents in reducing outdoor water use. The first step in the process is to fill out and submit an online application by visiting [www.removeyourturf.com](http://www.removeyourturf.com), and clicking the **APPLY FOR TURF REBATE** button. First, you must create a user account and then the customer portal will guide you through all necessary fields to accurately complete and officially submit your application. A customer service representative from WaterWise Consulting Inc. will notify you of receipt of your completed application and send a Notice to Proceed after reviewing your materials and approving your proposed project. **Do not start your project until you receive an official Notice to Proceed.**

**2. How much will I save if I take advantage of this Program?** The rebates are an incentive and not designed to cover the entire cost for your landscape improvements. A typical landscape conversion will cost upwards of \$5 or more per square-foot, or \$5,000 to convert 1,000 square feet.

**3. How long will the Program be available?** Funds will be dispensed on a first come, first served basis and only projects that stay within the required 120-day schedule and adhere to Program requirements will be reimbursed. Funding levels can change at any time depending on level of participation, the availability of other funds, etc.

**4. Who is eligible?** All customers of Ventura Water with existing turf on their property, including residential and commercial (non-residential) and multi-family/HOAs. Limit one rebate application per address or Ventura Water account. To be eligible for the turf removal rebate, the minimum turf area that must be removed and replaced with drought tolerant landscaping is 200 square feet. For properties that have already converted their front and backyard lawns and have not converted their parkway between the street and sidewalk, there is no minimum size requirement.

**5. What plants can I use when replacing my high water use lawn?** This Program will accept lawn replacements from high-water use plants to low-water use plants and permeable mulches, including low-water use lawn alternatives. Turf-like plants will not be accepted (i.e. Marathon/tall fescue, Buffalo grasses). Find plant water use requirements online at: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS> or [www.VenturaCountyGardening.com](http://www.VenturaCountyGardening.com). Some fruit and nut bearing trees and vegetables fall into a “moderate” water use category and will be permitted as part of the replacement of turf grass.

**6. Is synthetic turf allowed?** Synthetic turf, even recycled synthetic turf, is NOT allowed in the rebated portion of the converted landscape under this Program.

**7. What is the maximum rebate amount for turf removal and replacement?**

- \$4,000 for Residential customers
- \$8,000 for Commercial/Multi-Family customers

Incentives funds are intended to contribute to any of the following combination of measures:

- o Turf removal/replacement
- o Permeable mulch
- o Low-water use plants
- o Design, labor & disposal fees
- o Compost, compost tea, bio-char application
- o Rainwater capture systems
- o Irrigation system upgrades

**8. Is the rebate available for irrigation replacement?**

The rebate for Water Wise 2.0 program is based on the square footage of turf replaced. Irrigation replacement alone (not associated with turf removal) is NOT eligible for this rebate program. Customers can apply at [www.removeyourturf.com](http://www.removeyourturf.com) for Ventura Water’s smart irrigation controller, drip irrigation retrofit and high efficiency sprinkler nozzle programs.

**9. I am part of a Homeowner’s Association that pays my water bill. Can I still receive a rebate?** Yes, if your name is on the water bill, you can apply for a rebate. If your name is not on the water bill you may still be eligible.

**10. Are front yards only eligible?** No, any part of your landscape can be considered for qualification. The qualifying rebate area must be turf.

**11. What is considered “permeable”?** This program does not allow “hardscape”, which is non-permeable concrete or asphalt. Permeable hardscape such as gravel, brick, pavers, or flagstone, with permeable, mortarless material joints (filled with vegetation, sand, gravel, or crushed rock) are allowed if the joints separating the individuals bricks/pavers, etc. are not less than 1” on average. Tightly jointed bricks, pavers, and flagstone will not qualify.



**12. Can I receive a rebate for replacing a dead lawn or areas where I removed my lawn already?** Yes, as long as the replacement landscaping project has not begun. If the area currently has dead turf, or turf has been recently removed, BUT NO NEW LANDSCAPING HAS BEGUN, then a project that will remove remaining turf and meet Program Terms and Conditions can receive a rebate.

**13. Can I convert turf in my front yard at this time, and receive another incentive for turf removal in my backyard at another time?** No, incentives are limited to one application per program. You cannot apply for another rebate, even if you implement an additional turf removal or irrigation efficiency project at a later date under the Water Wise 2.0 program.

**14. Can my rebate check be less than the estimated rebate amount provided to me in my pre-inspection survey?** Yes. If the actual size of the area converted or total of submitted receipts for eligible costs and materials is less than originally estimated, the final rebate amount can be less.

**15. I own a rental property in addition to my own home, can I apply for both?** Yes, if they are on separate accounts. One application per Ventura Water account is allowed.

**16. Do I need to provide a design or site plan?** Yes, the following information should be provided in the site plans(s):

- At least one sketch to approximate scale.
- Irrigation zones (also known as valves or stations)
- Irrigation: Clearly identify the new type of irrigation to be used (none, drip, bubbler, point irrigation, or no spray irrigation).
- Mixed Zones do not qualify for this program! A mixed zone has different types of irrigation in the same zone.
- Accurate Measurement: Plan must contain the approximate measurement in square footage of the turf to be removed.
- Legend: Include a legend identifying the new plants and any ground cover (non-plant material).

**17. Do I need to provide a plant list?** Yes! Before submitting your plant lists confirm they meet ALL of the following criteria:

- *New Plant Names* - Include new plants used in your project (give separate lists for all areas in the project).
- *Quantities* - List the quantity of each plant being used.
- *Spread* - List the mature spread (width) for each type of plant on your list and verify this from one of the sources listed above.
- *Plant Coverage* - Calculate that your project will meet the minimum 50% plant coverage requirement for new plants (for existing trees a 25% maximum coverage credit will be awarded).

**18. Are plants required in my conversion area?** Yes, the Program requires that a minimum of 50% of the converted area have coverage from low-water use plants.

**19. Do I need to have project receipts for final reimbursement?** Yes! You must have receipts that equal or exceed the square footage payment amount for your project. Failure to provide original receipts may result in a smaller, or no project reimbursement.

**20. What happens if I reserve the wrong amount of funding?** Rebates are based on the measured area submitted when an application is made. It is important that you accurately measure the area requested as we cannot increase our measurement after the application is approved.

**21. If I participated in the 2015 Water Wise Program, can I participate in the Water Wise 2.0 Incentive Program?** Yes, previous program participants are eligible as long as you are clearly replacing turf in another area of your property.

**22. Do I have to provide photos of my existing irrigation?** Yes! Photos of your existing valves, controller, and operating sprinklers are all acceptable.

**23. Does my contractor need a valid City of Ventura business license?** Designers and contractors must possess a valid City of Ventura business license. Any work performed over \$500 requires a CA licensed contractor. Check <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/> to verify the license. If you perform the turf removal work or irrigation work yourself, labor costs are non-reimbursable. If an Applicant/Program Participant is also a licensed contractor or has a business as a gardener, labor expenses are not eligible.