

City of Spokane
Environmental Programs Office: Water Stewardship Program
June 1, 2009

Lawn Removal Incentive Terms & Conditions

Purpose:

This program encourages a reduction in irrigated lawn area and more water-efficient landscaping, thereby reducing summer outdoor water use. This optional incentive to participate is in the form of a refund on the resident's water utilities bill. Funding is limited, so the program will operate on a first come, first serve basis.

Eligibility:

City of Spokane retail water utility customers who currently have irrigated lawn and agree, with landowner approval, to remove at least a thousand square feet from irrigation are eligible. Single family, multi-family, apartment complexes (with approval of owner/lease holder), and businesses are eligible for the program providing they are on City of Spokane water in the City's water service area. To be eligible to participate in the program residents lawns must be green and regularly mowed, irrigated and cared for. Dead lawns and plots already removed will not be eligible for the program. If the new plot does require irrigation, hand watering or a drip system is mandatory to help assure water stewardship.

Program:

The incentive program is based on the participation of property owner's who agree to remove at least a 1000 square foot section of lawn from their plot and replace it with non-irrigated landscape, such as permeable hardscape, xeriscape or hardy drought tolerant plants. It is understood that some water may be necessary to establish drought tolerant plants. Such watering will need to be by hand or drip irrigation, only. The complete removal of each 1000 sq. ft. section of irrigated lawn would make the residents eligible for a one time \$100 deduction from their water utilities bill. Property owners that participate in the program must agree to brief pre and post-installation inspections which will be performed to assess the lawn removal and will include, but is not limited to, photographs of the area inspected, professional measurements of area inspected, and potentially a couple of follow-up calls/visits to help assess water savings and the alternative landscape success. Following pre-inspection the resident will receive a certificate for approval to participate in the program in which the resident will have 30 days to complete the lawn removal. This certificate will include a contract that the resident must agree to, assuring the sustainability of the removal.

Lawns that are replaced with the following qualify for the rebate:

- Drought tolerant annual/perennial plants
- Drought tolerant groundcovers
- Drought tolerant shrubs and trees
- Drought tolerant grasses
- Mulches (non-irrigated)
- Rock, sand, stone garden (non-irrigated)
- Gravel, brick (non-irrigated)