

Application # _____ Date _____

HIGH DESERT SAVES WATER Cash for Grass Landscape Program

Mojave Water Agency (MWA), in partnership with your local water provider and the State of California Department of Water Resources, are offering property owners a rebate cash incentive to remove lawn and replace it with water-efficient landscaping through a Cash for Grass Program. Beginning in February 2008, rebates are being offered to participating water agency customers at \$0.50 per square foot to replace lawn with eligible low water-use landscaping. This Program offers financial assistance to customers by offsetting a portion of the cost to convert water-thirsty lawn to native and desert adaptive landscapes.



REQUIREMENT: Please read all program rules carefully before submitting this application.

1. Starting without water agency approval will make your landscape conversion project ineligible for participation in this program.
2. Program funding is limited.
3. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first serve basis while funding is available.
4. MWA/DWR, in its discretion, may, at any time modify, suspend, or terminate this program without prior notice.

ELIGIBILITY

Program application **must be** mailed to your local water district and **pre-approved** by your local water district before removing any lawn and beginning the landscape conversion project.

Your water district may require your presence during the site pre-inspection before receiving approval for the project.

Areas to be converted must be living and maintained lawn.

Residential landscape conversion limits - zero square feet (sq.ft.) up to 6,000 sq.ft. maximum.

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional (CII) landscape conversion limits – zero sq.ft. up to 20,000 sq.ft. maximum.

Applicant must participate in a post-inspection to receive final approval and sign-off of the landscape and irrigation system conversion before a rebate check will be issued.

(Note: *Prior to conversion projects exceeding maximum square footage will be considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to pre-approval by Mojave Water Agency.

Notes: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY PRE-INSPECTION

Date _____
 Application # _____
 Water Account # _____
 Water District Code _____
 Site _____
 Residential
 Multi-Family
 CII
 Sq Ft grass to be removed _____
 Sq Ft of plant cover (A ÷ 4) _____
 Type of irrigation in area _____
 Consumption history of customer _____
 Expected date of completion _____
 Date photo taken (attached) _____
 Inspector signature _____
 Owner signature _____

POST-INSPECTION

Date _____
 Sq Ft removed _____
 Sq Ft of plant cover installed _____
 Converted to drip irrigation
 Yes
 No
 Date photo taken (attached) _____
 Inspector Signature _____
 Owner Signature _____

Property Owner _____	Date _____
Address _____	

City _____	Zip _____
Daytime Phone () _____ Evening Phone () _____	
email address _____	
Your Water District _____	

Please read the paragraph below carefully before signing. If you do not fully understand each of the statements, please call 800-831-8383 Ext. 308 or visit www.highdesertsaveswater.org.

I am the rightful owner or owner's agent for the property described above. I agree to abide by the rules of this program. This application has been accurately completed accurately, and the information herein is intended to meet the incentive program requirements. I understand that I may be disqualified from this program if my irrigation system is found to have any serious inefficiencies during the irrigation audit. I will not begin my landscape conversion replacement project until I have been notified following the pre-conversion inspection that my application has been approved.

Property Owner _____ **Date** _____

Inspector's Signature _____ **Phone Number** _____

LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 25% living plant coverage must be achieved within the converted area at plant maturity. This requirement will be determined during your pre-inspection.

Plant lists are available through your local water district and the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC) www.hdawac.org

Remaining lawn areas are not considered as plant cover.

Plants and lawn outside the converted area may be considered in the rebate calculation even if they are adjacent or overhanging into the area. This determination will be made during the pre-inspection.

Impermeable surfaces that do not allow water to penetrate into the ground are not allowed. This includes concrete, plastic film used as landscape fabric, and all other non-permeable materials.

Converted areas must be covered by a minimum two (2) inch layer of permeable mulch.

Mulches may include bark, rock, un-grouted stepping stones, and permeable artificial turf.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Spray irrigation is not permitted in the landscape conversion area.

If a spray irrigation system is currently being used, it must be converted to a low-volume drip system equipped with a pressure regulator, filter and emitters providing irrigation to new plantings.

Each drip emitter must be rated at less than 20 gallons per hour (gph).

If part of a lawn is converted, the sprinkler system must be properly modified to provide adequate coverage to the remaining lawn without spraying the converted area.

REBATE TERMS

The terms of this agreement expire in six calendar months from the date the participating water district approves the application.

The final inspection is not counted against the six-month time limit once your water district or Niagara Conservation Corporation (Niagara) has been notified that your project is complete.

Only one rebate payment may be received under this agreement.

Mojave Water Agency reserves the right to reject or limit the number of applications being processed.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and only while funding is available or until the program is discontinued.

REBATE AMOUNT

The Cash for Grass rebate is \$0.50 per square foot for approved landscape conversions.

Additional rebate dollars may be provided by your local water district and will be added to your rebate check.

Cash for Grass rebate amounts:

\$0.50 up to \$3,000 – Single Family Residential

\$0.50 up to \$10,000 – Commercial, Industrial and Institutional

Rebate checks are issued within 60 days after the post-inspection to the billing name on the account.

PRE-CONVERSION INSPECTION

Pre-inspections of your existing landscape will be conducted by your local water district, and your application must be pre-approved before removing any lawn and beginning a conversion. Your water district will determine if your presence is required, see box below.

Photos of the existing lawn will be taken during the landscape pre-inspection. _____ (Initial)

Your local water district **requires** that you, or an authorized person over the age of 18, be present during the pre-conversion inspection.

Your local water district **does not require** your presence during the pre-conversion inspection. If you are unable to be present and authorize the pre-inspection to take place, please sign the site authorization section of your application form. _____ (Initial)

POST-CONVERSION INSPECTION

Once the landscape project is finished, you are responsible for notifying your local water district or Niagara to schedule a post-inspection. Niagara's toll free number is 800-831-8383 Ext. 308.

You, or an authorized person over the age of 18, are required to be on premise during the post-inspection.

The post-inspection will include taking photos of the converted landscape, obtaining converted landscape area measurements, irrigation system inspection, plant eligibility review for program compliance and rebate eligibility verification. _____ (Initial)

If the converted landscape or irrigation system fails inspection, you will be notified, provided an explanation, and allowed 60 (sixty) days or the remainder of the six-month period, whichever is greater, to fully comply with the program conditions.

CONVERSION SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The converted area must remain in compliance with all program conditions for a period of two (2) years.

If the landscaping is altered during this two (2) year period, you may be required to refund some or the entire rebate if this requirement is violated.

Landscape and plant maintenance, plant quality and appearance before, during, and after the conversion are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

This requirement is void upon property transfer of ownership.

OTHER APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Mojave Water Agency and partnering water districts enforce only the conditions of this agreement.

The applicant is responsible for complying with all laws, policies, codes and covenants that may apply.

Program rebates for more than \$600 may be considered taxable income requiring IRS Form 1099 to be issued as required by law.

Disclaimer – MWA reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet all of the requirements of the MWA "Cash for Grass" Landscape Incentive Program. MWA makes no representations or warranties as to the condition, quality, effectiveness, operability or cost of installing or maintaining residential, multi-family, commercial, industrial, or institutional landscapes subject to this program, or of removing or disposing of any landscape or irrigation equipment debris in connection therewith and, to the extent not prohibited by law, disclaims all express and implied conditions, representations and warranties related thereto, including without limitation, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. **Limitation of Liability/Release** – Applicant understands and agrees that to the extent not prohibited by law, in no event shall MWA, its officials, officers, employees or agents be liable for any claimed or actual damages or losses of any kind, however caused and regardless of the theory of liability, related in any way to this landscape "Cash for Grass" rebate incentive program, even if MWA has been advised of the possibility of such damages or losses. To the extent not prohibited by law, applicant assumes all risks associated with this program, including without limitation, all risks associated with purchase, installation and maintenance of landscape material and irrigation system equipment subject to this program (including without limitation the risk of not realizing cost savings as a result of converting to low water use landscape), and the removal and disposal of any landscape materials, irrigation system equipment, and landscape maintenance debris in connection therewith. Applicant releases MWA its officials, officers, employees and agents from any and all claims for damage or death or injury to any persons or property arising in any way from this "Cash for Grass" landscape rebate incentive program, any landscape material disposal, irrigation system equipment, or landscape maintenance and equipment subject to this program (including without limitation the use or operation thereof), or the removal or disposal of any landscape materials and irrigation system equipment in connection therewith, other than those caused solely by the willful or grossly negligent acts or omission of MWA.