

# Water Conservation Rebate Requirements

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## INTRODUCTION

A rebate is an amount paid by way of reduction, return, or refund on a purchased product or service. It is a type of promotion used primarily as an incentive to promote water conservation. The Water Authority credits customers' water accounts that install or implements water efficient measures or new water efficient products. The Conservation Rebate Program is a simple way for customers to apply and qualify for various water rebates offered by the Water Authority in their respective coverage areas.

## WATER EFFICIENT WASHING MACHINE REBATE REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants are required to be a Water Authority customer and install the washing machine(s) at the service address.
2. The washing machine(s) remain in the possession of the original purchaser or at the original installation address for at least one year from the date of purchase.
3. The washing machine(s) can be purchased new anywhere.
4. ***Only the most water efficient washing machines will qualify for the rebate. Rebates will only be offered for machines with an IWF of 3.0 or lower and must be in the list provided by Water Conservation and posted in our website for customers to choose from.***
5. Customers are required to submit proof of purchase with the rebate form. If documentation proving purchase is not received or the rebate form is incomplete, it delays processing and all documentation is returned to the customer.
6. The customer is solely responsible for the purchase, installation arrangements, and payments.
7. If selected, the customer agrees to allow qualified Water Authority personnel access to the premises to verify installation.
8. Rebate credits remain at the address where the water conservation work took place. The customer may not transfer the rebate credit from the location of the savings to another Water Authority account, even if both properties are owned by the same person.
9. The rebate form is returned to the Water Authority within ninety (90) days of the purchase date to be honored.
10. The rebate credits the Water Authority account at the installation address. The rebate is credited within one to two billing cycles after the form is processed.

11. Customers may apply for the \$100 water efficiency washing machine rebate every five years or when the property is sold.

## OUTDOOR REBATE REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants are required to be a Water Authority customer.
2. The customer is solely responsible for the purchase, installation arrangements, and payments.
3. The Water Authority does not warrant, endorse, or assume liability for the quality or performance of the product related to purchases under this program.
4. If selected, the customer agrees to allow qualified Water Authority personnel access to the premises to verify installation.
5. Rebate credits remain at the address where the water conservation work took place. The customer may not transfer the rebate credit from the location of the savings to another Water Authority account, even if both properties are owned by the same person.
6. The rebate form is returned to the Water Authority within ninety (90) days of the purchase date to be honored.
7. The rebate credits the Water Authority account at the installation address. The rebate is credited within one to two billing cycles after the form is processed.
8. Customers are required to submit proof of purchase or service with the rebate form. If missing proof of purchase or service or the rebate form is incomplete, it delays processing and all documentation is returned to the customer.
9. **Sprinkler Controllers or Water Timers** are used to set the sprinkler system to specific watering times. Customers may receive up to 25% toward the total purchase price with no limitation.
10. **Rain Sensors** automatically shuts off the sprinkler system when it rains. Customers may receive a \$25 rebate per account, unless there is more than one irrigation system for the account.
11. **Vacuum Breaks Valves** provide protection against backflow or back siphoning of water. This irrigation component keeps non-potable water from inadvertently entering the water supply through outlets of the irrigation system. Customers may receive a \$25 rebate per account, unless there is more than one irrigation system for the account.
12. **Pressure Regulator Valves** are control valves that reduce the input pressure of water to a desired value at its output. Customers may receive a \$25 rebate per account, unless there is more than one irrigation system for the account.
13. **High efficiency rotating sprinkler nozzle** are high efficiency multi-stream nozzles that help to save water and irrigate more effectively. Customers may receive \$2 per head. There is no rebate limit for purchased multi-stream rotor sprinkler heads.
14. The **“Treebate”** is 25 percent of the cost of professional tree care, or for the purchase of new low and medium water use trees that appear on the Water Authority’s Xeriscaping Guide. Besides the purchase of new trees, other services and items may also qualify for the rebate. Examples are: professional tree care such as pruning, fertilization, pest management, or installation of professional landscaping dripline,

deep watering stakes, mulch or compost. The maximum Treebate allowable is \$100 per fiscal year per residential customers and \$500 per commercial, industrial, or institutional account per fiscal year.

#### **RAINWATER HARVESTING REBATE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Collecting and re-using rainwater from lawns and gardens minimizes the amount of water flowing into storm drains, sewer systems, and local waterways. Property owners may qualify to receive the rain barrel rebate.
2. Rainwater Harvesting Rebates are based upon the amount of rain water that can be stored in all rain barrels purchased.
3. The rain barrel's minimum size is 50 gallons.
  - a. 50 - 149 gallons stored qualify for \$25
  - b. 150 – 299 gallons stored capacity qualify for \$50
  - c. 300 – 499 gallons stored capacity qualify for \$75
  - d. 500 – 999 gallons stored capacity qualify for \$100
  - e. 1000 – 1499 gallons stored capacity qualify for \$125
  - f. 1500 gallons and over stored capacity or over qualify for \$150
4. Rain barrel(s) or Underground Cisterns are required to be designed for the intended purpose of rain capture.
5. Barrels should have a cover to prevent mosquitos, rodents, and debris from entering.
6. The rain barrel shall be mounted in a way that allows the barrel to receive water unimpeded from a downspout.
7. Should not block or restrict access to walkways or pathways.
8. There is no limit on the amount of rainwater harvesting rebates.

## Xeriscape Rebate Program

### INTRODUCTION

Xeriscape landscaping is a great alternative for region with hot dry climates. Not only does it save water and money, but a well-designed xeriscape is easier to maintain because it works within a framework that is consistent with the local ecology. The Water Authority offers a Xeriscape Rebate Program to customers to enhance water conservation and to keep our surroundings beautiful. Please refer to the Water Conservation Officer or Xeriscape Incentive Inspector for additional inquiries concerning Xeriscape Rebate Program.

### XERISCAPE REBATE REQUIREMENTS

1. Irrigation water shall be provided by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority.
2. Any turf grass removed shall be designated high water use, according to our Xeriscaping Guide plant list, and currently watered with spray-type irrigation.
3. Customer must convert a minimum of 500 square feet. Large turf conversions projects may be done in phases.
4. Fifty percent of the project rebate area shall be covered by plants, as they appear at maturity. Select qualifying Rainwater, low, and medium water usage plants from our Xeriscaping Guide plant list, and claim the mature plant area (referred to as rebate allowance). Existing plants within the area of turf removal, such as trees, may be incorporated into the design and contribute to the rebate allowance total, provided they are on the Xeriscaping Guide plant list, and are not designated high water use.
5. Spray irrigation is not permitted in the rebate area. Existing sprinklers shall be converted to a drip, bubbler system, or hand watered. If you hand water, plants must be one gallon or larger container stock. Areas watered with sprinklers, including micro-sprinklers, will not disqualify your project, but that area will be excluded from the rebate calculation.
6. The soil between the plants shall be covered with a minimum of 3 inches mulch. Common mulches are gravel, crusher fines or woodchips, but other materials may qualify. Impervious plastic is not permitted.

7. Residential Customers qualifying landscapes will receive a maximum of \$1.00 for every square foot of high water use turf grass that is converted. (See below for rainwater harvesting rebates).
8. Commercial Customers qualifying landscapes will receive a maximum of \$1.50 for every square foot of high water use turf grass that is converted. (See below for enhanced commercial rebates).
9. Receipts for plant purchase, irrigation equipment, mulch, or a landscape contractor (if used), shall be provided at final inspection.

#### **RESIDENTIAL RAINWATER HARVESTING GARDEN OR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS ENHANCED REBATES REQUIREMENTS**

1. Water shall be provided by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority.
2. Any turf grass removed must be designated high water use according to our Xeriscaping Guide plant list, and currently watered with spray-type irrigation.
3. Fifty percent of the project rebate area shall be covered by plants, as they appear at maturity. For rainwater harvesting gardens, select qualifying Rainwater plants (RW) from our Xeriscaping Guide plant list and claim the mature plant area (referred to as rebate allowance). Existing plants, such as trees may be incorporated into the design and contribute to the rebate allowance total, provided they are on the Xeriscaping Guide plant list and are listed as rainwater (RW) water use.
4. All plants in the rainwater harvest landscape must be designated as Rainwater (RW) water usage.
5. All irrigation water for the plants in the Rainwater Harvesting Garden Applications shall be delivered through active or passive rainwater harvesting methods. Passive methods include contouring the land to direct rainwater to desired planting areas. Active methods are collecting the water in cisterns and then distributing to plants. (You can receive additional rebates for rainwater harvesting cisterns purchased).
6. Commercial customers may qualify for enhanced rebates when replacing high water use turf grass in small areas (10 feet or less in any dimension), on steep slopes (at least 1:6), or develop a rainwater harvesting plan.

7. You shall cover the soil between and beneath the plants with a minimum 3 inches of mulch. Common mulches are gravel, crusher fines or woodchips, but other materials may qualify. Impervious plastic is not permitted.
8. Residential Customers participating in the rainwater harvesting garden rebate program will receive \$1.50 for every square foot converted.
9. Commercial Customers participating in the enhanced rebates program will receive \$2.00 for every square foot converted.
10. Receipts for plant purchases, irrigation equipment, soil amendments, or landscape contractor (if used), shall be provided at the final inspection.

#### **XERISCAPE REBATE PROCEDURES**

1. Customers may find the Xeriscape Rebate Application Form online to print or apply via the Conservation Rebate Application Portal.
2. The customer calls the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector to schedule a meeting, the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector confirms if the customer completed the Xeriscape Application or provides assistance on-site to fill out application.
3. Prior to scheduling initial inspection the Xeriscape Rebate Inspector informs the customer about requirements and confirms that the project includes the following:
  - a) The high water use turf has not been removed.
  - b) The landscape area is a minimum of 500 square feet.
  - c) The customer completed the qualified xeriscape plant list.
  - d) Fifty (50%) of the project rebate area is required to be covered by qualified low and medium use plants as they would appear at maturity-not at installation to receive the full rebate.
  - e) The landscape drawing is completed.
4. The Xeriscape Incentive Inspector schedules an initial inspection with the customer or customer's agent at the service address to verify if high water use turf is present, quantity turf being replaced and offer xeriscape best management practices to ensure efficient landscaping practices.
5. At the service address, the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector reviews the Xeriscape Rebate Application Form for accuracy and completeness.

6. The Xeriscape Incentive Inspector collects the Xeriscape Application which includes the completed list of low and medium water use plants and landscape drawings.
7. At this initial meeting, the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector and the customer or customer's agent both sign the Xeriscape Application. This demonstrates the agreement on the rebate amount for the conservation work the customer or customer's agent will complete.
8. From the date the application is signed, the customer or customer's agent has six months to complete the xeriscape project. At the customer's request, an extension of an additional six months may be granted if rebate funds are still available. The Xeriscape Incentive Inspector or a designee may approve this request. If an extension is granted, it is noted on the form with the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector or a designee's signature. Also, CC&B notations are entered.
9. When the xeriscape project is complete, the customer calls the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector to schedule a meeting for the final inspection.
10. The Xeriscape Incentive Inspector meets the customer at the service address and collects all receipts for the completed project.
11. The Xeriscape Incentive Inspector verifies if the qualified low or medium use plants indicated on the xeriscape application were installed. As part of the requirements the Xeriscape Inspector also verifies that spray irrigation is not present in project area. The Xeriscape Incentive Inspector signs the xeriscape application to verify the landscape project area was converted and meets the requirements for the rebate program.
12. Once the Xeriscape packet is completed and approved by the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector, it is sent to the Customer Service Division for processing.
13. If the amount of the Xeriscape Rebate is higher than \$10,000 the Water Conservation Manager will sign the application prior to sending it to Customer Service Division.
14. Once received, the Billing Team member verifies the rebate packet for accuracy. If correct, the Billing Team member enters the rebate packet amount into CC&B using the same steps described in the **Entering the Rebate in CC&B** section.
15. If the rebate packet is not calculated correctly (rebate packet does not match to the rebate amount), the Billing Team member sends it back to the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector for clarification and makes notation in CC&B of the packet being returned.
16. Rebate exceptions may be approved by the Water Conservation Program Manager, Water Resource Division Manager, CSD Division Manager, or a designee. If an exception is made to approve a xeriscape packet, the Xeriscape Incentive Inspector documents the exception reason on the application and adds CC&B notes detailing the reason for the approval, who approved the exception, and their initials. The Water Conservation Program Manager, Water Resource Division Manager, CSD Division Manager, or a designee approves and initials the application.



17. Completed packets are sent for scanning to the Image Repository for documentation and archiving purposes. A Customer Care Representative scans and uploads the service address within sixty (60) days. Some packets may not include landscape drawings.

## Water Efficient Incentive Program (WEIP)

### INTRODUCTION

The Water Efficient Incentive Program will promote water conservation initiatives such as installing water efficient devices and technologies that result in at least 100,000 gallons saved annually. Approved projects will be evaluated for an incentive of up to a \$10 per unit of water saved annually. Commercial customers could qualify for up to 50% of the cost of the project totaling up to \$50,000 per year. Savings will be calculated after the first year of installation and if savings meet threshold requirements, a one-time credit will be adjusted to the customer account.

### W.E.I.P. PROCEDURES

1. Projects must be pre-qualified in advance. Before starting a project customers will be required to submit an application with project description, pre-project “before” photos, estimated cost of project, and estimated water savings of the project over a period the first year and subsequent five years.
2. Approved applications will require a pre-authorization site visit by the Water Authority. If project qualifies funding will be reserved for the estimated savings amount. Customers have six months after application is approved to complete the project.
3. The project must include the installation of a sub-meter (if necessary) to quantify water savings.
4. Upon completion of the project, original receipts of cost of project must be submitted and a final post-installation inspection is required.
5. Completed projects will be evaluated for an incentive of up to a \$10 per unit of water (748 gallons) saved annually. Project must result in at least 100,000 gallons saved annually to receive an incentive.
6. Customers could qualify for up to 50% of the cost of the project or a maximum of \$50,000, whichever is lower.

7. The Water Conservation Program Manager will evaluate and determined projects and total amount of rebate.