# Water Efficiency Rebate Program

## Save Water. Save Money.

The Water Efficiency Rebate Program was established to help you save water, save money and protect your groundwater resources.

#### Residential Turf Replacement Rebate

**Get up to \$250 back** to replace your thirsty lawn with low water use plants. \$0.50 per square for up to \$250 total for residential groundwater users.

*How much water will I save?* Low water use plants need 70% less water than turf.

What are the other benefits? Low water use plants can add interest to your home; they provide vibrant color, texture, and curb-appeal. The chore of mowing the lawn will be eliminated, freeing you up for other fun activities. Low water use plants provide habitat for butterflies, hummingbirds and other local wildlife.

> Low water use plants use

> > 70% less

water than

turf.

#### Serving groundwater users in the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Subbasin including:

- Private wells Mutual water systems
- Shared wells Community wells
- Other not for profit water systems



#### Residential Water Use Consultation

A FREE site evaluation of indoor and outdoor water use. During the indoor evaluation, all water fixtures in the home including toilets, faucets and shower heads are tested to ensure efficiency and inspected for leaks.

The *indoor evaluation* includes free low flow shower heads and aerators. The *outdoor evaluation* may include free hose end nozzles, checking for leaks in the irrigation system and adjusting the irrigation controller to best meet site conditions and plant needs.

*A customized report* will be provided with a list of water savings recommendations and details on the available incentives.

Call today to schedule your FREE consultation! (707) 547-1909

Questions: (707) 524-1165 www.sonomawater.org/well



Program administered by Sonoma Water on behalf of the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

## Water Efficiency Rebate Program TURF REPLACEMENT REBATE GUIDELINES

#### **Program Guidelines:**

The site must receive its irrigation water from a private well, mutual water system, shared well, community well or other not for profit water system within the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Subbasin. Tenants / renters must receive written consent of the property owner to participate in the rebate program. A completed tenant permission form must be submitted with the application during the pre-inspection.

Applicant agrees to complete a pre-inspection consultation before the turf is removed. An application form for the project will be provided following completion of the pre-inspection.

Turf replacement rebate applies only to turf areas that have a fully functioning in-ground irrigation system. Sites with bare ground or comprised mostly of weeds are not eligible. Eligibility or ineligibility will be determined at the discretion of Sonoma Water staff during the pre-inspection. Turf removed prior to the pre-inspection are not eligible for a rebate.

After the pre-inspection approval, the applicant has 120 days to complete the turf replacement and call (707) 547-1909 to schedule a post-inspection. A completed and signed application form must be submitted to the Sonoma Water representative during the post-inspection.

### **Steps to Participate:**

- 1. Determine if your home is located within the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Subbasin by viewing the map located at http://santarosaplaingroundwater.org or call (707) 524-1165.
- 2. A tenant permission form must be submitted if you do not own the property where the turf replacement will take place.
- 3. Call (707) 547-1909 to schedule a pre-inspection consultation. After the pre-inspection appointment, sheetmulch the turf area, convert the sprinkler system to a low volume drip irrigation system or cap and abandon if hand watering and install low water use plants.
- 4. Within 120 days of the pre-inspection, complete the turf replacement and call (707) 547-1909 to schedule a post-inspection. During the inspection staff will verify completion of the project and collect the completed rebate application.

#### **Terms and Conditions:**

- 1. Rebates are calculated at \$0.50 per square foot of turf replaced up to a maximum of \$250. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to availability of funds.
- 2. The rebated area may only include plants that are low water use, drought-tolerant or California native plants that are non invasive as listed on the Water Use Classification of Landscape Species list (http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/) or in combination with eligible low water use plants and permeable landscape surfaces (mulch, decomposed granite, etc).
- 3. No rebate is offered for installation of impermeable surfaces (walkways, patios, etc), synthetic turf, pools or water features.
- 4. At a minimum, drip irrigation systems shall be equipped with pressure regulation, and filtration. If no irrigation system is used, sprinkler system must be capped and abandoned.
- 5. Sheetmulching is required unless granted a variance by Sonoma Water staff.
- 6. Turf may not be reinstalled while ownership of the property is retained. If turf is reinstalled during that time, the entire rebate amount must be refunded.
- 7. Site is subject to inspection by Sonoma Water staff prior to and after rebate distribution.
- 8. Upon post-inspection, if eligible rebated landscape material is not installed, the rebate will be forfeited.
- 9. Following final approval, a rebate check will be mailed directly to the applicant. Rebates may take up to 6 to 8 weeks to process.
- 10. A completed Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency tenant permission form must be submitted at the time of the pre-inspection appointment, certifying that all necessary permissions have been obtained from the property owner if the applicant is not the property owner.

