

Indian Wells Valley Water District
Cash for Grass Landscape Rebate Incentive Program
Revised June 8, 2016

The Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD) instituted a “Cash for Grass” Landscape Rebate Incentive Pilot Program in June 2015 in which rebates were offered to property owners served by the IWWVD at \$1.00 per square foot up to 2,000 square feet to replace lawn with eligible low water-use landscaping. This “Cash for Grass” Rebate Incentive Program offers financial assistance to customers by offsetting a portion of the cost of converting water-thirsty living turf to native and desert adaptive landscapes. The purpose of this program is to help IWWVD customers conserve water.

REQUIREMENTS

Please read all program rules carefully before submitting this application.

1. Applications must have original signatures and must be submitted to: **IWWVD Cash for Grass, 500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555**. Photocopies will not be accepted.
2. Applications received will be added to the waiting list in the order in which they are received.
3. Starting without IWWVD approval will make an applicant’s landscape conversion project ineligible for participation in this program.
4. Living plants used in the replacement xeriscape landscape must be from the Approved Plant List available at the IWWVD District Office or at www.iwwvd.com.
5. Program funding is limited.
6. The Indian Wells Valley Water District, at its discretion, may at any time modify, suspend, or terminate this program without prior notice.

ELIGIBILITY

Program eligibility is limited to owners of properties served by the Indian Wells Valley Water District. Program applications received by IWWVD must have original signatures. Applications must be pre-approved by the IWWVD before removing any lawn and/or beginning the landscape conversion project. IWWVD may require applicant’s presence during the site pre-inspection before providing approval for the project. See item “PRE-CONVERSION INSPECTION” for more information.

- Areas to be converted must be living and maintained turf/lawn
- All customers that annually use more than 2,000 hundred cubic feet of water per year conservation limits – up to 10,000 square feet maximum
- Residential customers that use less than 2,000 hundred cubic feet of water per year conversion limits – up to 2,000 square feet maximum
- Multi-family and Commercial/Industrial/Institutional (CII) customers that use less than 2,000 hundred cubic feet of water per year conversion limits – up to 2,000 square feet Maximum
- Annual usage exceptions may be issued at the General Manager’s discretion to better promote water conservation

Applicant must notify the District once the project is complete to schedule a post inspection. Applicant must participate in the post-conversion inspection to receive final approval and sign-off the landscape and irrigation system conversion before a rebate check will be issued.

LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum living plant coverage may be required. This information will be provided during your pre-inspection by an Indian Wells Valley Water District representative.
- Living plants used in the xeriscape landscape must comply with the Approved Plant list, which is available through the Indian Wells Valley Water District.
- Remaining lawn areas are not considered as plant or ground cover.
- Plants and lawn outside the converted area are not covered or considered in the rebate calculation even if they are adjacent or overhanging into the area.
- It is recommended that converted areas 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.
- Trees are not required to be removed from the converted landscape area.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

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).

Spray irrigation is not permitted in the landscape conversion area and must be capped off if not converted to drip irrigation.

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 application is approved. The final inspection is not counted against the six-month time limit once the Indian Wells Valley Water District has been notified that your project is complete. Only one rebate payment may be received under this agreement. The Indian Wells Valley Water District reserves the right to reject or limit the number of applications being processed. Applications received by 8 am on June 1, 2015 will be randomly selected "Lottery" style to participate in the program. Applications received after 8 am on June 1, 2015 will be held until the prior group has been processed.

REBATE AMOUNT

The "Cash for Grass" rebate is \$1.00 per square foot for approved landscape conversions up to 10,000 square feet of living turf.

Rebate checks are issued within 60 days after the post-inspection to the property owner's name on the application.

PRE-CONVERSION INSPECTION

Pre-conversion inspections of an applicant's existing landscape will be conducted by the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The application must be pre-approved before removing any lawn and/or beginning a conversion. Photos of the existing lawn will be taken during the landscape pre-inspection.

The IWVWD requires that the applicant or an authorized person over the age of 18 be present during the pre-conversion inspection.

POST-CONVERSION INSPECTION

Once the landscape project is finished, the applicant is responsible for notifying the IWVWD. The applicant will be provided a contact number during the pre-conversion inspection.

The applicant or an authorized person over the age of 18 is required to be on premise during the post-inspection.

The post-conversion inspection will include taking photos of the converted landscape, obtaining converted landscape area measurements, irrigation system inspection, and plant eligibility review for program compliance and rebate eligibility certification.

If the converted landscape or irrigation system fails inspection, the applicant 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 ten (10) years. If the landscaping is altered during this ten (10) 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

The Indian Wells Valley Water District enforces 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 – The Indian Wells Valley Water District reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet all of the requirements of the IWVWD’s “Cash for Grass” Landscape Rebate Incentive Program. The IWVWD 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 the Indian Wells Valley Water District, 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” Landscape Rebate Incentive Program, even if the Indian Wells Valley Water District 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 and without limitation, all risks associated with purchase, installation and maintenance of landscape material and irrigation system equipment subject to this program (including and 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 the Indian Wells Valley Water District, 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 and 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 the Indian Wells Valley Water District “Cash for Grass” Landscape Rebate Incentive Program.