



Single Family Residential Grass Removal & Conversion Rebate

Purpose:

This rebate provides an incentive for the conversion of grass to desert landscaping.

Description:

A rebate of \$0.50 per square foot of grass removed and converted to desert landscaping, capped at \$2,000 per residential property per fiscal year.

Terminology:

“grass removal area” – Refers to the designated area that the applicant is applying for the rebate and where the conversion will take place.

“pre-approval” – Refers to receiving approval notification through email by Tempe Water Conservation staff to begin the grass removal and conversion.

“approval” – Refers to receiving notification through email by Tempe Water Conservation staff that the applicant is approved to receive rebate funds after completing the grass removal conversion.

Eligibility:

- a. Applicants must abide by the *Rebate Universal Terms and Conditions* below.
- b. Only future grass removal conversions will be considered for the rebate. Applicants who have started removing the grass or completed the grass removal conversion prior to applying for the rebate will not be eligible.
- c. The grass removal area after the conversion must have a minimum of 30% expected mature, living plant coverage to receive rebate funds for the total square footage. Plant coverage refers to new and existing living plants calculated at expected mature square footage size. Grass removal areas that do not meet the 30% expected mature, living plant coverage after conversion may receive a rebate for up to 200 square feet for conversions.
- d. The grass removal area converted to only bare soil will not be eligible for the rebate.

Application process:

1. Prior to grass removal, apply for the rebate by completing the [online rebate application form](#). Applications are subject to pre-approval or denial. Applicants must receive an



email of pre-approval from Tempe Water Conservation before starting the grass removal.

- Applications must include:
 - Photos of the grass removal area before conversion. Screenshots of aerial imagery or online maps will not be permitted.
 - W-9, if receiving more than \$600 in rebate funds within the calendar year. Download a W-9 form here: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

NOTE: The pre-approval email will include pre-approved terms, measurement details, and the proposed rebate amount. Tempe Water Conservation staff measures the grass removal area using the [Maricopa County Assessor's Office website](#). The measurement is used to determine the square footage of the grass removal area and proposed rebate amount.

2. Once pre-approval has been issued, applicants will have six months from the date of the pre-approval email to complete the grass removal and conversion.
3. Applicants are required to email final photos of the converted grass removal area to conservation@tempe.gov. Completed conversions that do not adhere to the pre-approved terms will be reevaluated for the rebate.
4. Tempe Water Conservation staff will review the final photos of the completed conversion. The applicant will receive an email notification of rebate approval or denial. If the conversion has been approved, a check will be mailed within 6 to 8 weeks after notification of approval has been emailed.

Additional information:

Applicants can submit an online rebate form for the [Desert Plant Rebate](#), which is a rebate that supports the purchase of installed, [approved low water use/drought tolerant plants and trees](#). The Desert Plant Rebate will cover the purchase price of approved plants and trees, up to \$125, if the Desert Plant Rebate application is submitted within 14 days of emailing final photos of the grass removal conversion, and no later than 90 days from the plant purchase date on the itemized receipt.



Rebate Universal Terms and Conditions

- A. Applicant must be the owner of the property or have written permission from the owner to apply for the rebate, implement the rebate project, and receive rebate funds. Written permission must be sent to conservation@tempe.gov.
- B. All rebates are subject to availability of funds.
- C. Policy requirements are subject to change.
- D. The rebate project installation address must be within the City of Tempe's water service area.
- E. New home and building construction properties do not qualify.
- F. Rebate recipients receiving \$600 or more in rebate funds within a calendar year must submit a completed [W-9 form](#) in the [rebate application form](#) or sent to conservation@tempe.gov.
- G. Post-inspection of the property may be required to verify installation or conversion.
- H. Any photos submitted are the property of the city and may be shared in city reports and promotional material.
- I. All rebates are issued for the pre-tax total. The city will not reimburse shipping costs.