



PRESS RELEASE

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Cash For Grass Rebates Resume

BENICIA – June 30, 2016

The very popular turf replacement rebate program is set to resume on July 1, 2016. Benicia residents will be eligible to receive a \$1.50 per square foot rebate, up to \$1,500, for replacing thirsty grass with sustainable water-efficient landscaping that meets Bay-Friendly Landscape Guidelines, while funding lasts.

The City partners with Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) who administers the turf replacement program. This program has traditionally reimbursed a property owner \$1.00 per square foot, up to \$1,000 per project. Thanks to the Community Sustainability Commission (CSC) and City Council, the City was awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Valero/Good Neighbor Steering Committee funds to provide an additional incentive of \$0.50 per square foot for Benicia turf replacement projects. That way, customers will receive a \$1.50 per square foot rebate (comprised of the customary \$1.00/sq ft plus the \$0.50/sq ft from the City grant) on a first come first serve basis.

Since the program began in 2010, 264,520 sq. ft. of grass in Benicia has been replaced resulting in a total of \$324,386 in rebates issued to 260 Benicia residents. Due to the vast increase of participation in the program in 2015, funds ran out and the program was put on hold from September 19, 2015 to July 1, 2016. Interested residents have been put on a waiting list during this time. Residents on the waiting list would receive the rebate first if they have met the requirements of the program.

Interested residents can call SCWA to schedule a brief pre-inspection (707-455-1113 or email solanocash4grass@scwa2.com).

"More than 50 percent of a household's water use occurs in the landscape. Of that, about 30 percent is lost to overwatering and evaporation," said Water Quality Technician David Wenslawski. "There are lots of ways to save water at home, but reducing water use outdoors can make the biggest difference of all."

Residents can learn more water saving tips and information about free services and rebates at BeniciaSavesWater.org and SolanoSavesWater.org.

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