



Turf Replacement Incentive Rebate Program – Tahoe Keys POA

The Turf Replacement Incentive Rebate Program supports water conservation by replacing lawn with Tahoe-friendly native and adaptive vegetation that supports soil conservation, water quality, defensible space, and wildlife habitat. Applicants must work in good faith with the District in meeting these program goals.

The funding for this program is available for a limited time through a grant provided by Integrated Regional Water Management and will expire December 31, 2025. This is a first come first served program.

REBATE: Rebates are subject to the availability of funds and are available to Single Family Residences within the Tahoe Keys POA. Rebate amount: \$1.50 per sq. ft. up to a maximum of 300 sq. ft. or **\$450.00**

CONVERSION DEADLINE: October 15 of the following year of the turf verification site visit

WHO CAN APPLY?

1. To be eligible, your lawn must be verified by District staff. Lawn can be dying in place when emergency drought regulations are in effect. Established lawn areas that died due to the Tahoe Keys POA landscape watering ban are eligible with verification via alternate documentation.
2. Before beginning your turf conversion, the following actions need to take place:
 - i. Apply for the program through your WaterSmart Customer Portal at mywater.stpud.us.
 - ii. Must have a lawn verification site visit to be accepted into the program.
3. You commit to maintain the turf conversion while you own the property for a minimum of 5 years. If lawn is reinstalled at that time, the entire or partial rebate amount must be refunded to the District.

STEPS TO PARTICIPATE

1. Complete and submit application mywater.stpud.us.
2. A pre-conversion site visit is required. Site visits are conducted May through October.
3. Project requirements:
 - a. Lawn may be physically removed or covered by sheet mulching.
 - b. Lawn must not be reinstalled or relocated elsewhere on the property.
 - c. Only **mulched** permeable landscapes are allowed in the rebated area (mulch, rock, etc.)
 - i. The converted area must be covered by a material permeable to air and water.
 - ii. Patios or walkways constructed of materials such as decomposed granite (sand) and flagstone shall not exceed 25% of the area.
 - iii. Areas with artificial turf, concrete/asphalt, decking, driveway paving stone areas do not qualify for the rebate.
 - d. At completion, converted areas must contain **15% climate adapted plant cover** at 5-year plant maturity.
 - e. If the project area has an existing **irrigation system**, you must choose one of the following options:
 - i. Cut off irrigation valve, remove it and cap the pipes.
 - ii. Remove and cap all sprinkler heads.
 - iii. Remove and cap all but select sprinkler heads and convert remaining to a drip system.
 - iv. Cut the output side of the irrigation valve and convert to a drip system.
 - f. If you do not have an existing irrigation system, you may do the following:
 - i. Install a drip irrigation system.
 - ii. Hand water.

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4. Once the project is finished, contact Water Conservation staff to set up post conversion inspection between May and October 15.
5. Please allow 30-60 days after District staff approves conversion to receive the rebate check. Checks are issued only to the property owner or owner's appointed representative.

OTHER APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The District only verifies that the requirements of the Turf Buy Back Program are met. You are responsible for complying with all laws, policies, codes, and covenants that may apply.
2. Always consider defensible space, erosion control practices and land coverage allowances in your conversion as we live in an environmentally sensitive and extremely high-risk fire zone.
 - a. For information on the Best Management Practices Retrofit Ordinance, please visit <https://tahoebmp.org/> or call 775-589-5282. Visit <https://www.trpa.gov/land-coverage/> to learn more about land coverage.
 - b. For information on California Defensible Space law, please visit <https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/>. Request and schedule a free defensible space inspection: City of South Lake Tahoe – South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue <https://www.cityofslt.us/384/Fire> Unincorporated El Dorado County - Lake Valley Fire Protection District <https://lakevalleyfire.org/>