

# CASH IN YOUR LAWN

WITH SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING  
USING THE WATERSHED APPROACH



NEW & IMPROVED GUIDELINES

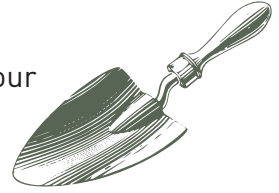
SAVE  
WATER  
&  
MONEY



[www.ladwp.com/landscaping](http://www.ladwp.com/landscaping)



**T**ake advantage of LADWP’s most popular water conservation program. “Cash in” your lawn and create a sustainable landscape that includes:



- California Friendly® plants, including native species, appropriate for the Los Angeles climate
- Mulch and other groundcover to help retain moisture in the soil
- A rain capturing feature like a rain garden, rain barrel, cistern, infiltration trench, or vegetated swale
- Drip irrigation (as needed)

A sustainable landscape will not only help you save on your water bill by reducing your water use. You will also help recharge the groundwater, reduce urban runoff and enhance wildlife habitat—overall benefiting yourself and the Los Angeles watershed.

**Rebate Totals:**

**Residential customers**

Up to 1,500 sq. ft. .... \$1.75/sq. ft.

**Commercial customers**

Up to 10,000 sq. ft. .... \$1.00/sq. ft.

10,001-43,560 sq. ft. .... \$0.50/sq. ft.

*Incentives may change without notice.*



**ADD MORE LADWP REBATES!**

**\$50**

**for a rain barrel  
(max two 50-80 gallons barrels)**

**\$200**

**for a weather-based irrigation controller**

**\$300-\$500**

**for a cistern  
(200-1,000 gallons or more)**

Apply for these rebates separately at [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com).  
Incentives may change without notice.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **What is Sustainable Landscaping using the Watershed Approach?**

Sustainable Landscaping creates beautiful and environmentally beneficial landscapes that use plants, soil and other features that consider the climate, available water, and other ecological factors. Sustainable Landscaping using the Watershed Approach includes: building healthy, living soil with compost and mulch; redirecting rainwater for infiltration or reuse; and using California Friendly® or native plants appropriate for the Los Angeles climate. Benefits include conserving drinking water, capturing and reusing stormwater, recharging the groundwater, and preventing polluted runoff from flowing to the rivers and ocean, while providing food and habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.



**What are California Friendly® plants?** “California Friendly®” plants are species that are fit for California and Los Angeles’ mild winters and warm, dry summers. These plants are comprised of native and Mediterranean plants that can thrive with little to no irrigation once mature. The Cash in Your Lawn rebate requires that, at maturity, 50 percent of your project area include plants that are California Friendly®.

**How do I select plants for my area?** Choose plants that thrive best in your climate zone, and place plants of similar sun and water needs in the same “hydrozone” to make watering easy and more efficient. For landscape templates, visit [www.ladwp.com/landscaping](http://www.ladwp.com/landscaping).



## **Why do I need three inches of mulch around my plants?**

Natural mulch – from plant sources like tree branches and leaves – does several things: it feeds the critters in soil, which in turn feed the plant; it covers soil and holds in water; and it reduces runoff. This rebate requires three inches of mulch around your plants and all exposed soil.

**Why do I need weed barrier?** Weed barriers prevent growth of weeds during the establishment of your sustainable landscape. Use an organic weed barrier because the material benefits your soil as it slowly decomposes over time.

**Can I install artificial turf?** Replacing live turf with synthetic turf does not qualify for the rebate.

## **Can I use rocks, gravel or alternative groundcover?**

Permeable, non-vegetated material like rocks, pavers, gravel and decomposed granite may be used on 25 percent or less of your project area but is not allowed in parkway areas. See website for guidelines.



**Why does my project have to capture rain?** Rain that runs off roofs, driveways, roads and lawns gets sent quickly to the ocean via storm drains. This can create flooding and ocean pollution, and prevents aquifers from replenishing. Any rain water that we can capture to use in our landscape or infiltrate to aquifers is more water available for us to drink and use. It is essential to maximize the use of rainwater captured and reused onsite, increase the permeability of your garden, and foster a healthy soil structure.

**How do I incorporate a rain capture feature?** Simply direct rainwater from your roof into your landscape, rain barrel or cistern. Shape your landscape with low spots to slow, spread, and infiltrate the rainwater. What works best for your property will depend on several factors. Here are some examples:

- **Rain gardens and swales:** Shallow, graded areas in your landscape that slow down runoff and help it soak into the ground.
- **Cistern or Rain Tank:** A rain water capture and storage container larger than 200 gallons. Stored water can be used to support plants during the dry season.
- **Rain barrel:** An above-ground storage container 50-80 gallons in capacity that collects rain from downspouts and stores it for future use.
- **Dry Creek Bed:** Contoured area filled with rocks, mulch and plants that accepts rainwater runoff.

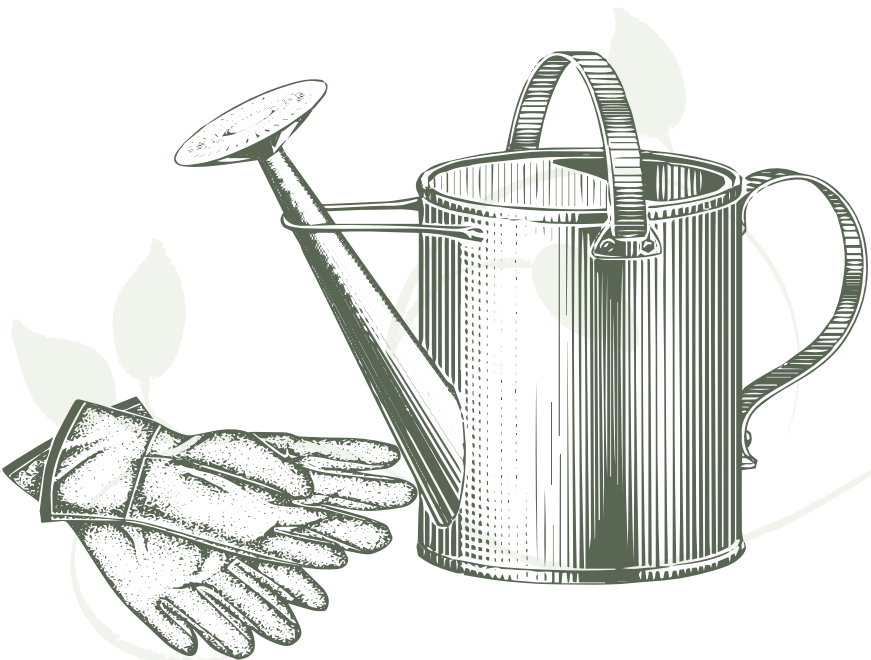
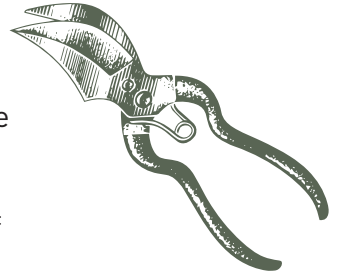


### **What does maintenance of Sustainable Landscaping entail?**

Sustainable Landscaping requires maintenance different from a typical lawn with grass. The new landscape will not need weekly mowing, but you must routinely check any drip irrigation lines, remove weeds, prune plants and replenish mulch. For your health and safety, keep rain barrels clean, covered and free of breeding mosquitoes. Although it is important to water new plants adequately at the beginning, make sure to dial back irrigation after the plants are established. Climate appropriate plants that are mature can survive with little or no irrigation. Be sure to attend our landscaping classes and get a free maintenance book.

# HOW TO GET YOUR REBATE

- 1. Plan.** Evaluate your project area, take measurements and plan your sustainable landscape. Determine how you can capture rain as part of your project. Consider signing up for a free landscape workshop and research plant palettes. Take plenty of pictures of all project areas.
- 2. Reserve your rebate.** Apply for the rebate at [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com). You must submit a minimum of five pictures, the first page of your LADWP bill, and your project measurements. You must get pre-approval before beginning your project. Read all the terms and conditions that are required to receive your rebate.
- 3. Execute.** Once you get your pre-approval, it is time to break ground and begin your project by DIY or hiring a contractor. Remember that you have four months to complete the project, and the best time to plant is between October and March.
- 4. Check, Submit and Collect.** Review the Sustainable Landscape Checklist for your project. Take photos and submit to [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com) to complete your rebate application. LADWP staff will review your photos and may schedule an inspection before disbursing the rebate.
- 5. Enjoy your sustainable landscape.** It will take some time for the plants to establish but soon, you'll be able to see your water and money savings grow, along with your plants. Give yourself a pat on the back for "cashing in" your lawn, saving water and helping the environment.



# SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE CHECKLIST

You're almost to the finish line! Read the terms and conditions one last time and review through the checklist before submitting your final project pictures. Make sure you've met/done the following:



- All sprinklers have been capped, removed or converted to drip irrigation.
- All turf has been removed in the project area and covered with weed barrier material.
- The project has a rain capturing feature—a rain garden, rain barrel, cistern, infiltration trench, vegetated swale, or retention pond.
- At maturity, the California Friendly® plants will fill in 50 percent of the project area.
- At least three inches of mulch surround the plants and cover all exposed soil.
- Only 25 percent or less of the project area is covered with non-vegetated material like pavers, gravel, decomposed granite, etc.
- No artificial turf is installed.
- All exposed soil is covered with permeable weed barrier, preferably organic, and at least a three-inch layer of mulch or permeable surface.
- No invasive plants have been included the project area.
- If the project includes a parkway, the California Friendly® and native plants will fill in 80 percent of the parkway project area. Be sure you meet all requirements for parkway landscaping.  
[www.ladwp.com/pw](http://www.ladwp.com/pw)



For questions or to sign up for a California Friendly® landscaping class, call (800) 544-4498 and press 5 at the prompt.