

Additional Documents

April 26, 2022 NREC Meeting



Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. _____

DATE: April 26, 2022

FROM: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director
Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

SUBJECT: **Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 Water Conservation Program**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission discuss and provide guidance on the proposed Water Conservation Programs for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Background

Since the State of California declared a drought in January 2014, the City has made a concerted effort to increase water conservation and improve water efficiency. During the drought, the City met the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) imposed water conservation requirements. Although the Governor rescinded the drought state of emergency in April 2017, provisions of Executive Order B-37-16, "Making Conservation a California Way of Life," were proclaimed to remain in full force and effect. In November 2019, the South Pasadena Green Action Plan (Green Plan) was adopted with a goal to "Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs." The plan includes actions such as evaluating the feasibility of a greywater rebate program, promoting water conservation rebates offered by the Metropolitan Water District, and providing educational materials and expert advice on water conservation practices (Attachment 1).

Fiscal Impact

The FY 2021-22 Budget included \$115,000 under the City's water conservation fund (Account No. 503-6010-6713-8032) which can only pay for water conservation projects. The FY 2022-23 Budget will be adopted later this year, and it is anticipated that the water conservation budget will remain the same as the previous fiscal year. The revenue for water conservation programs is collected through a water efficiency fee of \$0.14 per unit of water billed to all city water customers.

Discussion/Analysis

Annually, the City Council has adopted a water conservation program that includes rebates, education/outreach, water conservation material, and projects to promote water conservation throughout the City. The following conservation programs are included in the current fiscal year:

City Co-Funded Metropolitan Water District Rebates

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) offers residential and commercial rebates on indoor and outdoor devices as well as turf removal through their SoCalWaterSmart Program. In addition, the City adds supplemental funds to these rebates. Residents and business owners can apply for these rebates directly through the SoCalWaterSmart website and receive rebate checks that include both the MWD and City contributions. See Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment 2 for a complete list of MWD rebates and City co-funding amounts.

City Rebate Program

In addition to the MWD rebates, the City has its own rebate program that offers rebates on water conservation devices and landscaping that are not offered through MWD. These City rebates address our local water conservation needs and further encourage South Pasadena residents and business owners to implement water saving practices and play an active role in conserving our water sources. For a complete list of City rebates, see Table 3 in Attachment 2.

Residential and Commercial Water-Use Assessments

The City has partnered with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) to promote their eSGV Program (formerly known as the EASY Program), which offers free energy and water assessments for homeowners as well as renters. Assessments can be completed virtually or in person. Residents can expect to receive a report with a list of steps they can take to conserve energy and water. City staff are working with SGVCOG to promote this program in conjunction with the rebate program.

Water Conservation Promotional Materials and Activities

Examples of items that can be used to promote water conservation are buckets, low-flow aerators, tree water aids, water conservation brochures/pamphlets, newsletters, and other print media. Funds can also be used for events, programs, outreach, and community classes related to water conservation education.

With a total budget of \$115,000 for the water conservation program, the following table shows the budgeted allocations for each program for the current fiscal year (2021-2022). The table also includes expended funds for the MWD rebates as of February 28, 2022 and the expended funds for City rebates, water-use surveys, and water conservation promotion as of April 25, 2022. Lastly, the table includes the proposed budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Proposed FY 2022-23 vs. Budgeted and Expended FY 2021-22 Water Conservation Rebate and Program Funding				
Water Conservation Rebate/Program	FY 2021-22 Budgeted	FY 2021-22 Expended (July 1 – April 25)	FY 2022-23 Proposed	Difference
MWD Additional Rebate Funding – Residential (7/1/21-2/28/22)	\$25,000	\$7,999.68	\$25,000	-
MWD Additional Rebate Funding – Commercial (7/1/21-2/28/22)	\$20,000	\$750	\$10,000	(\$10,000)
City Rebate Program - Residential	\$20,000	\$1,776.41	\$20,000	-
City Greywater Rebate Pilot Program – Residential Only	-	-	\$20,000	\$20,000
City Rebate Program - Commercial	\$20,000	\$0.00	\$10,000	(\$10,000)
Water-Use Surveys	\$5,000	\$0.00	\$5,000	-
Water Conservation Promotion	\$25,000	\$0.00	\$25,000	-
TOTAL:	\$115,000	\$10,526.09	\$115,000	-

Proposed Changes for FY 2022-23

For FY 2022-23, staff proposes the following changes:

1. Given the low participation in rebates, especially for commercial, reduce the allocations for MWD Commercial and City Commercial rebates from \$20,000 each to \$10,000 each.
2. Add a Greywater Pilot Program in the amount of \$20,000. The program details are not determined at this time and may include a workshop series, a laundry to landscape direct install program, rebate program, etc.

Aligns with the Green Plan:

Move II.1.2: Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a greywater rebate program

Move II.1.4: Create informational materials on greywater systems.

3. Make no changes to the amounts offered for MWD co-funded rebates (i.e. keep Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment 2 the same for FY 22-23) and explore new ways of promotion including direct mailings, banners, etc.

Aligns with the Green Plan:

Move II.2.4: Promote rebates offered by Metropolitan Water District on water conservation devices.

4. Increase rebate amounts for City rebates for purchases made in the City of South Pasadena.
Aligns with the Green Plan:

Move II.2.2: Evaluate the current water conservation program in respect to local vendor supplies.

5. Explore paid partnerships with third parties for more in-depth and comprehensive water assessments.

Aligns with the Green Plan:

Move II.3.2: Partner with third party to offer water conservation assessments for homes and businesses.

Public Notification of Agenda Item

The public was made aware that this item was to be considered this evening by virtue of its inclusion on the legally publicly noticed agenda, posting of the same agenda and reports on the City's website and/or notice in the *South Pasadena Review*.

Attachments:

1. South Pasadena Green Action Plan – Goal II: Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs
2. MWD and City Residential and Commercial Rebates FY 21-22

ATTACHMENT 1

South Pasadena Green Action Plan

Goal II: Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs



Platform 1

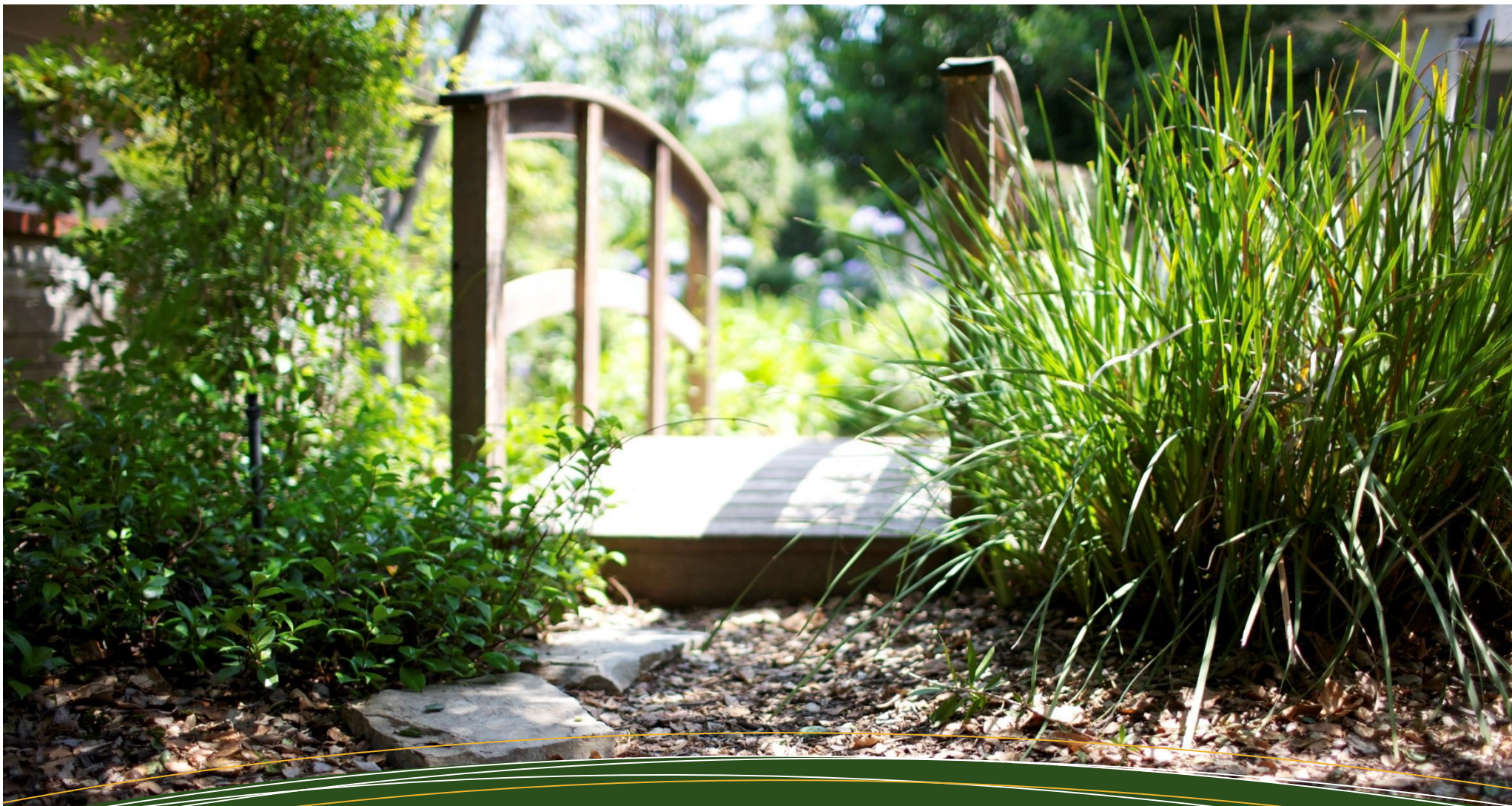
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● Azusa	8, 15
● East LA	8, 13



SOUTH PASADENA

Green Action Plan

ON THE MOVE towards sustainability



GOAL II Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs

Goal II: Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs

Play 1: Provide education and promote greywater systems.

Move II.1.1: Create an Integrated Water and Wastewater Resources Management Plan (IWWRMP). An IWWRMP will include an integrated plan for potable water, recycled/non-potable water, sewer, and stormwater management/services. It will identify project/facility maintenance and financial plans.

Move II.1.2: Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a greywater rebate program. Implementing a greywater system conserves water and reduces costs. Review City of Pasadena's program and evaluate the feasibility of implementing a similar program.

Move II.1.3: Work with South Pasadena Beautiful to promote a Garden Tour focusing on greywater systems. This will increase awareness and education. Consider incorporating this into City's Earth Day events.

Move II.1.4: Create informational materials on greywater systems. These materials should include the following information: what they are, how they save water, cost estimates, how to implement in South Pasadena (approvals, codes, etc.).

**Move II.1.5: Educate/train Building and Planning Department on greywater systems. Trainings will ensure that staff are up-to-date on requirements for greywater systems.*

Play 2: Promote the use of water conservation devices.

Move II.2.1: Retrofit all water faucets in City facilities with low-flow aerators and post signage to raise awareness. Inventory all water faucets in City facilities and indicate current faucet's flow rate (gpm). Switch to low-flow aerators. Create and post stickers to raise awareness.

Move II.2.2: Evaluate the current water conservation program in respect to local vendor supplies. Determine how to incorporate a greater incentive for water conservation devices purchased within the City for the next fiscal year. Purchasing locally contributes to a smaller carbon footprint and keeps funds within our City.

Move II.2.3: Continue to offer businesses and residents free water conservation devices including low-flow aerators, showerheads, and hose nozzles. These devices go beyond behavioral changes and can provide actual water/cost savings.

Move II.2.4: Promote rebates offered by Metropolitan Water District on water conservation devices. Businesses and residents can get money back on their water conservation efforts.

Play 3: Provide educational materials and expert advice on water conservation practices.

Move II.3.1: Create checklists/pamphlets that give tips on how to conserve water at home, at work, and at school. Promotes awareness and provides education.

Move II.3.2: Partner with third party to offer water conservation assessments for homes and businesses. This will provide tailored feedback to residents and businesses and help with individual questions and concerns.

Play 4: Increase water conservation efforts outdoors.

Move II.4.1: Promote outdoor rebates offered by Metropolitan Water District (MWD) on outdoor water conservation devices and the turf removal program. Businesses and residents can get money back on their water conservation efforts. Promote through all communication channels including social media posts, City website, eNeighbors, etc.

Move II.4.2: Host workshops on turf removal and native plants. Explore other water-wise landscaping workshop possibilities. Turf Removal and Native Plant Workshops are offered through Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. It is a great way to provide education and promote conservation efforts.

Move II.4.3: Promote rebates offered by the City on water efficient plants, native trees, drip irrigation, and sprinkler nozzles. Businesses and residents can get money back on their water conservation efforts. Promote through all communication channels including social media posts, City website, eNeighbors, etc.

Move II.4.4: Develop and promote an impervious surface removal rebate program. Removing impervious surface conserves water, captures stormwater, and replenishes the groundwater basin. Residents and businesses can get money back on their water conservation efforts. Promote through all communication channels.

Move II.4.5: Host a workshop on the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO). Coordinate with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to bring their MWELO workshop to South Pasadena. This will be beneficial for Building and Planning staff, contractors, landscape architects, etc.

Move II.4.6: Where possible, incorporate green infrastructure design in roadway projects. Green infrastructure can include bioswales, bio infiltration systems, impervious pavement, etc.

Goal II: Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs

MOVE	FIELD	PLAYERS	SCORE	CLOCK	SUPPORT
Play 1: Provide education and promote greywater systems.					
Move II.1.1: Create an Integrated Water and Wastewater Resources Management Plan (IWWRMP).	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works 	<input type="checkbox"/> IWWRMP	FY20/21 Q3	Consultant
Move II.1.2: Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a greywater rebate program.	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ Building/Planning 	<input type="checkbox"/> Program outline and resources needed	FY20/21 Q3	Consultant
Move II.1.3: Work with South Pasadena Beautiful to promote a Garden Tour focusing on greywater systems.	Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ Community Svcs ▪ PIO 	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion through communication channels	FY19/20 Q3	
Move II.1.4: Create informational materials on greywater systems.	Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ Building/Planning ▪ PIO 	<input type="checkbox"/> Factsheet	FY19/20 Q4	
<i>*Move II.1.5: Educate/train Building and Planning Department on greywater systems.</i>	<i>Municipal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ Building/Planning 	<input type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Session/Workshop	FY20/21 Q3	Consultant
Play 2: Promote the use of water conservation devices.					
Move II.2.1: Retrofit all water faucets in City facilities with low-flow aerators and post signage to raise awareness.	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ PIO 	<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheet of old vs. new aerators, if possible	FY20/21 Q2	Signage funds
Move II.2.2: Evaluate the current water conservation program in respect to local vendor supplies.	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works 	<input type="checkbox"/> Outline of potential incentives for local purchases vs. non-local	FY19/20 Q4	
Move II.2.3: Continue to offer businesses and residents free water conservation devices including low-flow aerators, showerheads, and hose nozzles.	Commercial Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works 	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign-up sheet	FY19/20 Q3	
Move II.2.4: Promote rebates offered by Metropolitan Water District on water conservation devices.	Commercial Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ MWD 	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion through communication channels	FY19/20 Q3	
Play 3: Provide educational materials and expert advice on water conservation practices.					
Move II.3.1: Create checklists/pamphlets that give tips on how to conserve water at home, at work, and at school.	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ PIO 	<input type="checkbox"/> Checklist <input type="checkbox"/> Factsheet	FY20/21 Q2	
<i>*Move II.3.2: Partner with third party to offer water conservation assessments for homes and businesses.</i>	<i>Commercial Residential</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works 	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of program	FY19/20 Q4	Consultant
Play 4: Increase water conservation efforts outdoors.					
Move II.4.1: Promote outdoor rebates offered by Metropolitan Water District (MWD) on outdoor water conservation devices and the turf removal program.	Commercial Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ MWD ▪ PIO 	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion through communication channels	FY19/20 Q3	
Move II.4.2: Host workshops on turf removal and native plants. Explore other water-wise landscaping workshop possibilities.	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ Community Svcs ▪ Upper District 	<input type="checkbox"/> Turf Removal Workshop <input type="checkbox"/> California Friendly Landscape Workshop	FY20/21 Q4	
Move II.4.3: Promote rebates offered by the City on water efficient plants, native trees, drip irrigation, and sprinkler nozzles.	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ PIO 	<input type="checkbox"/> New rebate applications <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion through communication channels	FY19/20 Q3	
Move II.4.4: Develop and promote an impervious surface removal rebate program.	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ PIO 	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebate application <input type="checkbox"/> Factsheet <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion through communication channels	FY19/20 Q3	
Move II.4.5: Host a workshop on the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo).	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works ▪ Chamber ▪ MWD 	<input type="checkbox"/> MWELo Workshop	FY20/21 Q1	
Move II.4.6: Where possible, incorporate green infrastructure design (such as bioswales) in roadway projects.	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Works 	<input type="checkbox"/> Green infrastructure in projects	FY20/21 Q4	

ATTACHMENT 2
FY 2021-22 Water Conservation Rebates

Water Conservation Program Rebates

Table 1 and Table 2: The tables below summarize the current FY 2021-22 MWD rebates.

Table 1: MWD Residential Rebates – FY 2021-22			
Rebate	MWD Incentive	City's Incentive	Total Customer Incentive
High Efficiency Clothes Washer	\$85	\$165	\$250
Premium High-Efficiency Toilet (1.1 gallon per flush)	\$40	\$110	\$150
Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles	\$2	\$0	\$2
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (less than one acre)	\$80	\$100	\$180
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 per station	\$50 per station
Soil Moisture Sensor System (less than one acre)	\$80	\$70	\$150
Soil Moisture Sensor System (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 per station	\$50 per station
Rain Barrel	\$35	\$0	\$35
Cistern (200-500 gallons)	\$250	\$0	\$250
Cistern (501-999 gallons)	\$300	\$0	\$300
Cistern (1000+ gallons)	\$350	\$0	\$350
Flow Monitor Device (Pilot)	\$100	\$0	\$100
Turf Removal	\$2 per ft ² (up to 5,000ft ²)	\$1 per ft ² (up to 1,500ft ²)	\$3 per ft ²

Table 2: MWD Commercial Rebates – FY 2021-22

Rebate	MWD Incentive	City's Incentive	Total Customer Incentive
Plumbing Flow Control Valve	\$5	\$0	\$5
Laminar Flow Restrictors	\$10	\$0	\$10
Premium High-Efficiency Toilet (1.1 gallon per flush) - Commercial	\$40	\$110	\$150
Premium High-Efficiency Toilet (1.1 gallon per flush) - Multifamily	\$40	\$110	\$150
Zero Water Urinals	\$200	\$0	\$200
Ultra Low Water Urinal	\$200	\$0	\$200
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 per station	\$50 per station
Central Computer Irrigation Controller	\$35 per station	\$0	\$35 per station
Soil Moisture Sensor System (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 per station	\$50 per station
Large Rotary Nozzles	\$13 per set	\$0	\$13 per set
Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles	\$2	\$0	\$2
In-Stem Flow Regulator	\$1	\$0	\$1
pH-Cooling Tower Controller	\$1,750	\$0	\$1,750
Cooling Tower Conductivity Controller	\$625	\$0	\$625
Dry Vacuum Pump	\$125 per 0.5 HP	\$0	\$125 per 0.5 HP
Connectionless Food Steamers	\$485 per compartment	\$0	\$485 per compartment
Ice-Making Machines	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Turf Removal	\$2 per ft ² (up to 50,000ft ²)	\$0.50 per ft ² (up to 1,500ft ²)	\$2.50 per ft ²

Table 3: The table below summarizes the current FY 2021-22 City Rebate Program.

Table 3: City Rebate Program - FY 2021-22	
Commercial and Residential Rebate	Rebate Amount
Water Efficient (Drought Tolerant) Plants	\$600
Native Trees (10 trees maximum)	\$50 per tree
Drip Irrigation Conversion	\$150
Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles (10-29 nozzles)	\$2 per nozzle