



## Grass-to-Xeriscape Incentive for Non-Residential Customers

### ABOUT THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The City of Mesa received a grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation to assist non-residential customers reduce their landscape water use and increase efficiency. We plan to offer a variety of rebates for purchasing water efficiency equipment.

The purpose of the *Grass-to-Xeriscape* program is to help our customers reduce their landscape water use by half or more by replacing their water-thirsty lawns with landscape plants appropriate to our Sonoran Desert climate. When a non-residential customer removes 10,000 square feet or more of established grass and replaces it with a water-thrifty landscape, the project may qualify to receive a \$5,000 incentive from the City of Mesa, subject to verification and acceptance into the program.

### DETAILS

Applications are subject to approval based on many factors, including the funds available. All incentive options and rules/guidelines are subject to change at any time by the City of Mesa. Funds are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis. A reservation/waiting list system may be initiated.

### GRASS-TO-XERISCAPE PROCESS

1. Please contact Becky Zusy at (480) 644-3058 or [becky.zusy@mesaaz.gov](mailto:becky.zusy@mesaaz.gov) to indicate your interest and to verify availability of funds.
2. Create a draft landscape plan for the area to be converted. Be sure that a minimum of 10,000 square feet of grass is designated for removal and that the conversion area includes at least 50 percent coverage with low water use plants. City staff will review your plan and determine if it will be an eligible project. City staff will evaluate your proposed landscape and may suggest alterations to ensure compliance with City codes.
3. City staff will inspect your property to verify that it meets the preliminary requirements. You will then have 90 days to complete the conversion project.
4. Once you complete your conversion project, City staff will inspect the property to verify that the plan has been followed and that all requirements have been met. Applicant must have a meeting to review a water budget with City staff and landscaping company to talk about proper watering.
5. A general landscape plan of the entire property indicating the total square footage of grass and of Xeriscape areas, including your converted areas, must be provided before the final inspection. This will be used to create a water budget for the property, which will be reviewed with City staff. This budget will provide you with water usage goals and guidelines.
6. Your organization will receive a check after the final inspection, approval, and water budget meeting.

*Other separate incentive programs for landscape irrigation efficiency are available.*



# Grass-to-Xeriscape Landscape Conversion Incentive 2018

## Application for Non-Residential Customers

*This application, rules and guidelines are subject to change at any time. This application is specific ONLY to those non-residential properties who choose to remove grass and replace it with Xeriscape.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of your organization (homeowner association, business, municipality, school, or multifamily property)\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of the property to be landscaped

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address to which check should be mailed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name to which check should be issued\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate phone

Planned start date of grass removal/chemical application: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated length of time to complete project: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of grass to be removed (square footage) \_\_\_\_\_

*For HOAs only:* Has your board approved this project?  Yes  No  
Have you informed the residents about this project? How? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your budget for this landscape conversion?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How likely was your property to complete a landscape conversion before this incentive?

Highly unlikely  Unlikely  Likely  Highly Likely

How did you hear about this program? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you considering incorporating low impact development ("LID" – the beneficial use of stormwater) into your design? See <http://mesaaz.gov/home/showdocument?id=14999> for tips \_\_\_\_\_

***By signing below, you agree to comply with all incentive program Requirements and Rules and understand that starting without City of Mesa approval will make your conversion ineligible. Your signature also gives permission for before/after photographs of your property to be used in the City of Mesa website and other educational purposes. You agree and acknowledge that your water use data may be shared with third parties and with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for analysis and tracking.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of authorized representative \*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of authorized representative

Send the completed application with a copy of your draft landscape plans to:

City of Mesa Environmental and Sustainability  
PO Box 1466  
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466

\* Proof of ownership required

\*\* Authorized representative is Board President for HOAs

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date & initials- LS plan approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
W9 received

\_\_\_\_\_  
Measured grass area

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of preliminary inspection onsite

\_\_\_\_\_  
Verify ownership?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of final inspection

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of meeting for water budget

\_\_\_\_\_  
Processed for payment



# Grass-to-Xeriscape Landscape Conversion Incentive 2017 Requirements and Rules for Non-Residential Customers

**Contact City of Mesa before the project starts!** The incentive is not retroactive prior to the approval date, and is not applicable to conversion projects that take place without the approval of the City of Mesa. This is an application for Grass-to-Xeriscape only. Other incentive options will be separate from this and will have different applications.

## BEFORE YOU START:

1. Funding for this incentive program is provided by a grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior. When the funding is completely allocated, the program will be closed to new applications.
2. The applicant/authorized representative must be the owner of a non-residential property and a City of Mesa water customer.
3. Authorized representative must supply City of Mesa with a corporate resolution or copy of board minutes to prove legal authority to act on behalf of the applicant organization.
4. Grass must be relatively healthy at time of application and initial inspection. Under this program 'healthy' shall be defined as routinely irrigated and manicured with an average coverage of 70 percent.
5. Any grass areas that are watered by wells or flood irrigation water are not eligible.
6. City staff must inspect the property before work begins (no grass can be removed before City of Mesa approval).
7. Applicant must plan to remove a minimum of 10,000 square feet of grass and comply with the detailed requirements listed in this document for that landscaped area.
8. The converted area must be replaced with low-water using plants that, when fully mature, will cover at least 50 percent of the area (grass cannot be replaced with just artificial turf or rock). All plants **must be** on the Arizona Department of Water Resources' Low Water Use plant list ("Low Water Plant List"). See next page for details. Four plants from the Low Water Plant List are not allowed in this program - Purple Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum* cv. 'Cupreum'), Toadflax (*Linaria* spp.), African Sumac (*Rhus lancea*), and Athel (*Tamarix aphylla*). **Adding high water use plants is prohibited.**
9. Spray irrigation and non-pervious materials (such as black plastic sheeting) are not permitted in the converted area. A concrete surface cannot take up more than 25 percent of the converted area.
10. The new landscape must be covered with a minimum of a 2" deep layer of organic or inorganic mulch (such as granite or rock). Other materials may qualify.
11. City of Mesa right-of-way areas do not qualify.
12. The grass removal or installation of the Xeriscape must not conflict with other City of Mesa landscaping requirements as prescribed by existing codes, ordinances, policies or procedures.

## FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

13. Provide a draft landscape plan with your application. The proposed landscape design must comply with zoning code and be approved by City of Mesa Development Services and Engineering staff. **Work cannot begin until this approval is granted.**
14. Once all approvals are granted by City of Mesa, applicant will receive notification from staff of approval. Applicant has 90 calendar days to complete the project. Failure to follow this schedule will result in disqualification.
15. Applicant must supply a W9 form with taxpayer identification number (TIN) to receive payment. See <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

## ONCE YOU HAVE APPLIED:

16. Applicant must provide final landscape plan for the entire property indicating the landscaped area square footage, separated into grass and Xeriscape areas. This will be used for your property's water budget. A water budget provides a goal for water usage based upon property size and landscape type.
17. Applicant is required to schedule a meeting with relevant parties (HOA board members or property owners) and property's landscaper to review the recommended water budget and how to meet it. City of Mesa staff will facilitate this meeting.
18. City of Mesa staff will conduct a final onsite inspection to verify that all program requirements have been met.
19. Payment of \$5,000.00 will be in check form, and will not be given until all requirements of the incentive program have been satisfied and once a W9 form is received.
20. Prior property water usage will be reviewed and water usage will be monitored for a minimum of one full year after the final approval is granted.

## How to Determine Proper Plant Coverage

As noted in number eight of the requirements, the converted area must be replaced with low-water using plants that, when fully mature, will cover at least 50 percent of the area (grass cannot be replaced with just rock). The chart below will help to determine the minimum number of new plants needed for the converted area. Planting additional trees and shrubs, however, is not discouraged. Preservation of existing trees and shrubs is encouraged and may qualify as part of plant replacement requirements if they are currently located in the converted area.

The charts contain the same plants listed in our booklet, Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert, and have been categorized by approximate square feet of coverage at maturity. Once you have determined the square feet of grass you are removing, cut that in half, then select the number and type of plants that add up to the amount you need. For example, if you remove 600 sq. ft. of grass, cut that amount in half (600 sq. ft. ÷ 2 = 300 sq. ft.). Find the combination of plants you need that will provide 300 sq. ft. of coverage.

This is not an all-inclusive list and many more plants, such as cacti, succulents, vines, and desert perennials would qualify. The complete list is based on a comprehensive low-water using plant list compiled by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. For a copy, visit [http://infoshare.azwater.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-10087/LWU\\_Plants\\_ForWebRedesign.pdf](http://infoshare.azwater.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-10087/LWU_Plants_ForWebRedesign.pdf).

### EXAMPLE COVERAGE PROVIDED BY PLANTS AT MATURITY

Small Shrubs & Groundcovers	Medium Shrubs & Groundcovers		Large Shrubs & Groundcovers	Trees - all will depend upon the specific expected dimensions of each variety and species
<b>10 square feet of coverage</b>	<b>30 square feet of coverage</b>	More medium shrubs	<b>75 square feet of coverage</b>	
<i>Abutilon palmeri</i> <b>Superstition Mallow</b>	<i>Aloysia gratissima</i> <b>Bee brush</b>	<i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i> <b>Mangle Dulce</b>	<i>Acacia redolens</i> <b>Trailing Acacia</b>	
<i>Ambrosia deltoidea</i> <b>Triangleleaf Bursage</b>	<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> <b>Flame Honeysuckle</b>	<i>Myrtus communis</i> <b>Myrtle</b>	<i>Atriplex canescens</i> <b>Fourwing Saltbush</b>	
<i>Cephalophyllum cultivar</i> <b>Red Spike Ice Plant</b>	<i>Baccharis hybrid</i> <b>Desert Broom</b>	<i>Nerium oleander</i> <b>Oleander</b>	<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> <b>Bougainvillea</b>	
<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i> <b>Damianita</b>	<i>Berberis trifoliolata</i> <b>Barberry</b>	<i>Oenothera stubbei</i> <b>Saltillo Primrose</b>	<i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i> <b>Mexican Bird of Par.</b>	
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i> <b>Bush Morning Glory</b>	<i>Buddleia marrubifolia</i> <b>Woolly Butterfly Bush</b>	<i>Punica granatum</i> <b>Pomegranate</b>	<i>Celtis pallida</i> <b>Desert Hackberry</b>	
<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i> <b>Desert Tea</b>	<i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i> <b>Yel. Bird of Paradise</b>	<i>Rhus ovata</i> <b>Sugar Bush</b>	<i>Cordia boissieri</i> <b>Texas Olive</b>	
<i>Ericameria laricifolia</i> <b>Turpentine Bush</b>	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> <b>Red Bird of Paradise</b>	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> <b>Rosemary</b>	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> <b>Hop Bush</b>	
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> <b>Flattop Buckwheat</b>	<i>Calliandra species</i> <b>Fairy Dusters</b>	<i>Ruellia peninsularis</i> <b>Baja Ruellia</b>	<i>Fraxinus greggii</i> <b>Little-leaf Ash</b>	
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i> <b>Blue Euphorbia</b>	<i>Cordia parvifolia</i> <b>Little-Leaf Cordia</b>	<i>Senna artemisioides</i> <b>Senna/Cassia (all)</b>	<i>Lycium fremontii</i> <b>Wolfberry</b>	
<i>Gazania rigens</i> <b>Trailing Gazania</b>	<i>Dalea species</i> <b>Dalea (all)</b>		<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> <b>Myoporum</b>	
<i>Justicia candicans</i> <b>Red Justicia</b>	<i>Encelia farinosa</i> <b>Brittlebush</b>		<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i> <b>Jojoba</b>	
<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i> <b>Tufted Eve. Primrose</b>	<i>Eremophila species</i> <b>Eremophila (all)</b>		<i>Sophora secundiflora</i> <b>Texas Mnt. Laurel</b>	
<i>Plumbago scandens</i> <b>White Plumbago</b>	<i>Gossypium harknessii</i> <b>San Marcos Hibiscus</b>		<i>Tecoma species</i> <b>Yellow/Orange Bells</b>	
<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> <b>Katie Ruellia</b>	<i>Guaiaacum coulteri</i> <b>Guayacan</b>		<i>Tecomaria capensis</i> <b>Cape Honeysuckle</b>	
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> <b>Creeping Germander</b>	<i>Hamelia patens</i> <b>Firecracker Bush</b>		<i>Vauquelinia californica</i> <b>Arizona Rosewood</b>	
<i>Viguiera deltoidea</i> <b>Golden Eye</b>	<i>Hyptis emoryi</i> <b>Desert Lavender</b>		<i>Wedelia trilobata</i> <b>Yellow Dot</b>	
	<i>Justicia californica</i> <b>Chuparosa</b>		<i>Zizyphus obtusifolia</i> <b>Greythorn</b>	
	<i>Lantana hybrid</i> <b>Lantanas (all)</b>			
	<i>Larrea tridentata</i> <b>Creosote Bush</b>			
	<i>Leucophyllum species</i> <b>Texas Sage (all)</b>			
	<i>Malephora crocea</i> <b>Gray Ice Plant</b>			