The Manatee County Water Conservation Rebate Program
Manatee County Government Resolution No. R-05-261

Purpose: Reduce the amount of drinking water from Manatee County Public Utilities used for landscape irrigation by offering financial incentives for making irrigation and/or landscape improvements.

Participants: Home and business owners with irrigation systems served by Manatee County Public Utilities that have a record of using a monthly average of more than 8,500 gallons of potable water in a six-month period prior to 3-25-2003, have an approved backflow prevention device and meet certain other qualifications.

Categories: There are nine rebate categories available, some which may be combined for a maximum rebate of $1,250. To participate in any of these programs a resident should:

- Make application with Utility Operations and meet eligibility requirements
- Complete the requirements within chosen category(ies)
- Submit copies of paid receipts to Utility Operations after work is complete

Category Highlights

1. Cistern.
   - Rebate 50% of documented cost up to $500
   - Minimum storage capacity of 2,500 gallons
   - Store AC condensate, pool overflow, water table collection, rainwater, etc.
   - For use in place of potable water for irrigation

2. Alternative water source.
   - Rebate 50% of documented cost up to $500
   - Install pump & equipment to draw irrigation water from lake, retention area, or natural storage area
   - For use in place of potable water for irrigation

3. Irrigation well.
   - Rebate 50% of documented cost up to $1,000
   - Install new well or repair existing inoperative well

4. Community well.
   - Rebate 50% of documented cost up to $1,000 per customer or $10,000 per well.
   - Install new well or repair existing inoperative well for multiple users on one well.

5. Rain sensor irrigation shut-off device.
   - Rebate 100% of documented cost up to $125
   - Device must affect the entire irrigation system (not just a zone)
   - Must be installed and operational
   - Irrigation/landscape evaluation by Extension Service following installation

6. Soil moisture sensor or evapo-transpiration based irrigation control.
   - Rebate of 100% of documented cost up to $250 for either device (not both)
   - Device must affect the entire irrigation system (not just a zone)
   - Must be installed and operational
   - Irrigation/landscape evaluation by Extension Service following installation
7. **Irrigation system repair or retrofit.**
   - Rebate of 50% of documented cost up to $500
   - Irrigation/landscape evaluation by Extension Service before, immediately after, and 12 months after project
   - Attend 1 educational workshop on landscape irrigation by Extension service
   - Complete recommended repairs for leaks, broken parts, etc. including;
     - Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape bed zones
     - Install low volume irrigation in landscape bed zones
     - Have a properly installed and operational rain sensor irrigation shut-off device (5)

8. **Irrigation system replacement.**
   (Replace half or more of existing irrigation zones)
   - Rebate of 50% of documented cost up to $1,000
   - Irrigation/landscape evaluation by Extension service before, immediately after, and 12 months after project
   - Attend 1 educational workshop on landscape irrigation by Extension service
   - Complete recommended replacements, repairs including;
     - Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape beds zones
     - Install low volume irrigation in landscape bed zones
     - Maintain proper coverage of turf irrigation zones
     - Have a properly installed and operational rain sensor irrigation shut-off device (5)

9. **Landscape retrofit.**
   - Rebate of 50% of documented cost up to $1,000. (No more than $100 of rebate may be used to pay for plans from a licensed landscape architect or a certified landscape designer)
   - Irrigation/landscape evaluation by Extension Service before, immediately after, and 12 months after project
   - Attend 1 educational workshop on landscape planning and maintenance by Extension Service.
   - Implement all landscape recommendations from initial evaluation in accordance with prior approved plan from Extension Service.
   - Complete all requirements of the Irrigation Repair (7) or Irrigation Replacement (8) category
   - Have a properly installed and operational rain sensor irrigation shut-off device (5)

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**Further Information**

For eligibility, application, program administration, and reimbursements:
Manatee County Utility Operations - Water Conservation Program
4410 66th Street West, Bradenton, FL 34210. Phone: 941-792-8811 ext. 5327

For landscape/irrigation evaluations, educational workshops, and landscape plan approvals:
Manatee County Extension Service - Water Conservation Program
1303 17th Street West, Palmetto, FL 34221. Phone: 941-722-4524 ext. 259 or 235
Website: [http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/water_wise/index.shtml](http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/water_wise/index.shtml)

Revised Aug. 5, 2009, Jack Tichenor, Extension Agent, Manatee County Extension Service