

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)

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