



SMART LANDSCAPE REBATE PROGRAM

Smart Irrigation Controllers

Why smart irrigation controllers are better than old-fashioned sprinkler timers:

Traditional timers turn the water on and off based on a set schedule that does not change with the weather and regardless of how much the landscape actually needs to be watered. As a result, plants are often watered too frequently, or for too long a time, which wastes water, wastes money, damages plant health, causes runoff, and can wash harmful lawn and garden chemicals into nearby waterways.

Smart irrigation controllers solve these over-watering problems by adjusting the irrigation schedule based on the [Evapotranspiration](#) (ET) rate and actual on-site environmental conditions, and automatically provide the right amount of water to maintain ideal, healthy growing conditions.

Evapotranspiration is the water lost from soils through evaporation and plant tissue through water uptake. The evapotranspiration rate is affected by solar radiation, temperature, humidity, and wind. (Amy Vickers, Water Use and Conservation, 2006)

Rebate Process

1. Customer schedules an appointment for an on-site visit (Pre-Qualification Inspection) with a Water Conservation Program representative. If your project qualifies, you will receive the pre-qualified list of items eligible. Call (805) 564-5460 to make an appointment.
2. Customer or their landscaper installs and programs the qualifying irrigation controller according to manufacturer's directions. Contact manufacturer for installation and programming questions. Contact distributor for a list of professional installers and the additional cost of installation if you choose not to install yourself.
3. Customer will contact the Water Conservation Program to schedule the post inspection to review installation and programming of controller.
4. Upon successful completion of the verification and post inspection, the rebate will be processed.

NOTE: We will bill the value of the rebate back to the customer service account if, as applicable, customer discontinues payment of the signaling fee during the first five years after installation date.

Eligibility Requirements

Account holders who meet the program qualifications and guidelines outlined below are eligible.

1. Each self-adjusting irrigation controller must replace an existing traditional irrigation timer.
2. Customer must install and program controller per manufacturer's directions and, if applicable, pay the service fee for a minimum of five years after installation date.
3. An original, typewritten receipt must be submitted, including the name of the store or contractor, purchase date, price, make & model.
4. All rebates are subject to availability of funds. Rebate may take up to 8 weeks to process.
5. Sales tax, installation, programming costs, and signaling fees where applicable, are not rebated.
6. All controllers will be inspected by staff prior to rebate being approved. Controller and landscape may be inspected at any time by City of Santa Barbara staff to determine ongoing compliance with the program.
7. Program is subject to change without notice.

Only Smart Water Application Technology (SWAT)-tested controllers qualify for the Smart Landscape Rebate Program. All systems must be installed with the proper weather sensor equipment according to manufacturer specifications.

For more information about this independent, third party performance testing protocol specific to controllers , visit:

www.irrigation.org/SWAT/Industry/ia-tested.asp

Links to Studies

- Bureau of Reclamation, 2007 [Weather and Soil Moisture Based Landscape Irrigation Scheduling Devices, Technical Review Report - 2nd Edition](#)
- Cooperative Extension, U.C. Davis - [Evaluation of Weather-Sensing Landscape Irrigation Controllers, June 2004](#)
- Smart Water Application Technologies (SWAT) - Irrigation Association - A partnership between water agencies and manufacturers -<http://www.irrigation.org/smartwater/> or http://www.irrigation.org/gov/default.aspx?pg=swat_perf-reports.htm&id=214
- Best Management Practices - Irrigation Association - <http://www.irrigation.org/gov/default.aspx?pg=BMPs.htm&id=104>

For more information, please e-mail cpare@SantaBarbaraCa.gov or call (805) 564-5593.

Rebate amounts are subject to change without prior notice and are based upon availability of funds.

