



# Turf Conversion Rebate Program

**IMPORTANT:** Read all information on page 2 of this application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of turf conversion: \_\_\_\_\_

(if different than mailing address)

City of Hays Water Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Irrigate with: City water \_\_\_\_\_ Well water \_\_\_\_\_

(for address of turf conversion)

Pictures of my turf conversion project may be used for rebate program publicity, etc. : Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(names and addresses will not be shared publicly without prior consent)

*I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions as stated on the 2nd page of this application. Please be advised that IRS regulations require a 1099-MISC be sent to any person receiving a rebate greater than \$600, in which case a W9 form will need to be submitted at the time of payment:*

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information,** contact Water Conservation at (785) 628-7350.

This program provides financial assistance to customers wishing to convert their irrigated cool season lawns to more water efficient, drought-tolerant, warm-season turfgrass or landscaping. The City of Hays does not endorse or recommend specific brands, products or dealers. Turf and plant selection and installation is the sole responsibility of the applicant. The City assumes no responsibility for any damage that may occur to an applicant's property as a result of participation in this rebate program. Due to circumstances beyond its control, the City cannot guarantee that participation in the turf conversion program will result in lower utility costs.

## OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Application: Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspected By: \_\_\_\_\_ Sq. Ft.: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspected By: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Rebate Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Rebate Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order #: \_\_\_\_\_



# Turf Conversion Rebate Program

The City of Hays offers a \$1.00/square foot rebate for the conversion of maintained, irrigated, cool-season turfgrass to a more water-efficient, drought tolerant turfgrass or landscaping. Rebate eligible conversions include the following:

- ◆ Replacing maintained, irrigated cool-season turfgrass (i.e. Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass) with a warm-season turfgrass variety (i.e. Buffalograss, Bermudagrass)
- ◆ Replacing sections of maintained, irrigated cool-season turfgrass with mulched planting beds, etc.

Once established, warm-season turfgrass varieties and drought tolerant plants (mulched with organic mulch) require very little (if any) supplemental irrigation as compared to cool-season turfgrass. Native species like Buffalograss have a deep root system that allows the turf to withstand extended periods of drought.

## Rebate Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ All properties with maintained, irrigated cool-season turfgrass, within the City of Hays, may qualify for this rebate program on a first come, first serve basis. Rebates are available primarily for lawns watered with City water, but a small percentage of rebates are available for private well users as well.
- ◆ **A pre-inspection must be completed prior to any turf conversion work being done.** Work completed prior to pre-inspection will NOT qualify for a rebate. Calling for a pre-inspection as the work is being done (i.e. turf is being removed, etc.) is NOT acceptable. Pre-inspections must be scheduled in advance with City of Hays staff.
- ◆ A minimum of 100 square feet of converted turf may qualify for a rebate. \$3,000 is the maximum rebate allowed per property.
- ◆ This rebate is available for up to one year following pre-inspection date. (Subject to change based on availability of program funds from year to year.)

## Procedure:

- ◆ Contact (785) 628-7350 to schedule a pre-inspection. City staff will meet with you to see if you qualify for the program, discuss your plans and measure the lawn area you are proposing to remove and replace. If you qualify, you will then be given authorization to proceed with the conversion.
- ◆ Complete the conversion (either personally or via a qualified contractor). Keep in mind all City of Hays rules and regulations regarding landscaping and outdoor irrigation. Go to [www.haysusa.com](http://www.haysusa.com) for more information.
- ◆ Once conversion has been completed, contact (785) 628-7350 to schedule a post-inspection.
- ◆ After a successful post-inspection, allow 2+ weeks for your rebate to be processed. Payment will be made to the property owner. **Remember, Pre- and Post-inspections are required for eligibility prior to issuance of rebate.**



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## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Does extending a concrete patio or extending my driveway qualify for a rebate?**

No. You can certainly include concrete patios and other impervious surfaces in your landscape, but those areas will not be measured for a potential turf conversion rebate.

### **Does converting to artificial turf qualify for a rebate?**

Yes, however the longevity of artificial turf in our area is questionable. It is not “maintenance free” as often thought. Artificial turf does not foster healthy soils (which increase moisture holding capacity, support healthy microbes and insects, filter pollutants and improve water quality). In addition, artificial turf adds to the “heat island” effect in urban settings (similar to rock mulch).

### **Does replacing turf with “rock” or using other non-organic mulch (including landscape fabric) qualify for a rebate?**

Yes, however the goal of the program is to promote water conservation and maintain the benefits of a healthy landscape while following recommended practices. Landscape fabric (or plastic) with rock mulch on top creates a harsh environment for plant growth, adds to the “heat island” effect and is not a recommended practice. Inorganic mulch (i.e. rock, gravel, landscape fabric, rubber) is not maintenance free. Over time, weeds will become an issue and the maintenance can be difficult. Inorganic mulch does not contribute to soil health as organic mulch does as it breaks down...actually it is quite the opposite and can be detrimental to soil health. (Healthy soil = Healthy plant roots = Water efficient plants)

### **What kinds of plants can I use in mulched planting beds?**

The choice is yours, however it is highly recommended that drought tolerant, low water use plants be used. K-State Research and Extension is an excellent source of information regarding what types of plants are suitable for this part of the state as well as planting/care advice. Check out what information they have to offer at [www.cottonwood.ksu.edu](http://www.cottonwood.ksu.edu) or by calling (785) 628-9430.

### **There is a sprinkler head right where I want to put a mulched planting bed. What do I need to do?**

The sprinkler head will need to be removed and capped off. Converted areas can use drip irrigation at the plant base but cannot use overhead/spray irrigation. If you wish to use drip irrigation, there are kits available to convert an existing sprinkler head to a drip manifold. If this is done, the irrigation device must meet 2012 IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code low-flow emitter guidelines. Drip emitters must discharge less than 4 gallons/hour/emitter. Micro-spray, micro-jet, and misters must discharge less than 30 gallons/hour/nozzle. (NOTE: Every sprinkler head within the converted irrigation zone must be converted to maintain proper precipitation rates. i.e. You cannot have sprinklers mixed with drip irrigation in one zone.)