



Long Beach Water Department
The Standard in Water Conservation &
Environmental Stewardship

MEDIA RELEASE

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Long Beach Homeowners Continue Ripping Out Grass Lawns Through City's Turf Removal Rebate Program

Over 200 front yard transformations now complete, with an additional 300 landscapes to be finished by the end of summer

LONG BEACH, CA – The Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners has announced the completion of the 200th landscape transformation under the City of Long Beach Lawn to Garden Incentive Program.

“We are pleased to announce that 200 Long Beach landscapes have now been converted from grass lawns into Beautiful Long Beach gardens,” said Dr. Suzanne Dallman, President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners. “In October we commemorated the completion of the first 100 new landscapes. Since that time, our customers have really stepped up their efforts and have now doubled that amount,” continued Dr. Dallman.

The program allows pre-approved Long Beach water customers to apply for rebates worth \$2.50 per square foot of turf removed, with a set maximum of 1,000 square feet allowed per customer, or \$2,500 total. Approximately 750 customers have applied for the rebates since they were first offered last April. The program remains open to any applicants who may be considering removing their grass lawns in favor of a more environmentally friendly landscape.

“With more than 200 projects now complete and another 300 expected to be finished soon, we expect that most residents will begin to see this new brand of yard popping up in their own neighborhood” said Kevin Wattier, General Manager for the Long Beach Water Department. “And these numbers don’t include the residents that had the foresight to do this before we offered the program, or those that have re-landscaped their yards on their own dime,” added Wattier.

Because drought-tolerant landscapes require so much less water than their grass lawn counterparts, the Water Department estimates that these water-efficient landscapes have the potential to **save over 100 million gallons** of water over the next ten years, not including any homes that have done the conversions outside of the program.



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“We expect this to provide long-term cost savings to our customers,” said Wattier. “Every gallon of water saved through this program means one less gallon of expensive imported water that we must purchase,” added Wattier. “It also means lower monthly water bills for those customers that have converted over to the water-efficient landscapes, since their monthly water consumption should drop to a permanently lower level.”

Current applicants and other interested customers can continue to read about the rebate program and California Friendly landscaping in general, by visiting www.lblawntogarden.com.

The [Long Beach Water Department](#) is an urban, southern California, retail water supply agency and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

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