

# Irrigation System Upgrade Rebate Commercial & Multifamily Customers

**Please contact Tucson Water to schedule a visit at the beginning of the project.**

Tucson Water is committed to helping our customers become more water efficient, save money, and reduce their water waste. Irrigation water use can account for 26% of a multifamily and 35% of a commercial property's water use.

This rebate encourages your business to become more water efficient through improved water management. To ensure that the new equipment saves water and works effectively, some of the rebated equipment is limited to nationally tested and approved brands and models.

## Rebate Amount

- ❑ **1/3 of cost** will be reimbursed
- ❑ **\$5,000** available per location
- ❑ Limited funds are available so act now!
- ❑ **Program may change in July 2009** to allow more rebate options. Keep receipts for all irrigation improvement work completed for potential reimbursements.

## Items that will be rebated

(see detailed descriptions below):

1. Irrigation Pre-Audit
2. Irrigation Sub-meter (Private or Tucson Water)
3. Smart or Evapotranspiration (ET) Based Irrigation Controller
4. Soil Moisture Sensor based controller
5. Multi-stream rotor irrigation heads
6. Check valves
7. Irrigation Post-Audit

## To be Eligible

Pre-audit results must show Distribution Uniformity (D.U.) of **45% or less** and Post-audit must show target D.U. of **60-65%\* or more**.

1. Receipts for all equipment and audits.
2. For Smart timer – the ET function must be used for scheduling

## Rebate Process

1. Confirm eligibility by calling **Tucson Water, 791-4331**.
2. Conduct pre-audit, keep copies of receipts and audit results. Pre-audit results must show D.U. of 45% or less to qualify for remainder of rebate items.
3. Purchase and install controller, sprinkler heads, check valves and keep copies of receipts.

4. Conduct post-audit and make adjustments to meet a minimum **\*D.U. of 60% for fixed spray heads or 65% for rotors**. Keep copies of audit results.
5. Schedule verification meeting with Tucson Water staff.
6. Submit the completed application form, copies of receipts/invoices and audit results.
7. Please allow 6-8 weeks for the rebate check to arrive.

## Rebate Equipment Details

### Controller Requirements

See application form for approved list

### Irrigation System Audits

1. **Pre-Audit** – determines the efficiency of your irrigation system prior to any upgrades.
2. **Post-Audit** – determines the efficiency improvements after upgrades are complete)

An irrigation system audit analyzes efficiency and functionality, identifies needed repairs and measures how evenly the system is distributing water (expressed as a percentage of efficiency).

**Irrigation Sub-Meter** – Installing a separate private meter or flow meter to record irrigation water use allows you to better manage your water use and identify

system leaks by tracking outdoor usage separately from your indoor water use.

### Weather or Soil Sensor-Based

**Timers/Controllers** – These devices automatically adjust irrigation schedules using local weather conditions, plant and soil type, and location. The controller allows for more precise watering of your landscape and has been shown to reduce water use by 20-25%. See the attached form for approved timers/controllers.

### Multi Stream Rotor Nozzles

These nozzles can replace existing irrigation heads without replacing the entire sprinkler housing. They are adjustable in length and arc. Studies have shown they **use ~20% less water** compared to a traditional sprinkler head. These nozzles require more time on the clock because of their low precipitation rate. They are less wasteful during windy days.

### Check Valves

A check valve prevents water from draining out of the sprinkler head after system is turned off.

### Case Study Examples

An average business can save up to **500 gallons/day or \$630/year for upgrading a system** (installing matching heads, a new controller, and fixing defective parts).

Increasing irrigation efficiency from 35% to 75% on an acre of turf can reduce water bills by as much as **\$1,000 per year**.

- A business complex invested \$80,000 in an irrigation audit; replaced grass with low water use plants in areas that were hard to irrigate without wasting water, replaced sprinkler heads and made other improvements. As a result, monthly water bills **dropped by 50-75%**. Based on these water savings, they expect to recoup their initial investment in **less than two years**.
- An HOA community invested in weather-based irrigation timers for the entire community of 5,000 homes. The community reduced their water bill by nearly **\$5,000** during a **two-month period**.

Tucson Water is also offering **High Efficiency Toilet Rebates** for commercial customers, and **free restaurant water saving devices**. Contact Tucson Water's Conservation Office at **791-4331** (see the enclosed application for details).



Commercial & Multifamily

# Irrigation System Rebate

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If you have questions about any of these programs, please contact us at 791-4331 or visit

[www.tucsonaz.gov/water/conservation.htm](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/conservation.htm)

*Si usted desea este en español, llame al 791-4331.*