



City of Austin

Rebate Program Requirements and Specifications

Commercial Incentive Program Guide

The City of Austin's Water Conservation Program offers up to **\$100,000** in rebates to industrial, commercial, and institutional customers towards the cost of installing new equipment and processes that conserve water at existing facilities. The City of Austin also offers rebates for specific items such as water efficient toilets, clothes washers, and efficient landscape irrigation equipment (see back page for additional information). Some examples of items that are eligible include:

- Replacing single pass cooling with cooling tower water or air cooling,
- Reuse of high quality rinse water, combined process or stormwater reuse for landscape irrigation, and
- Installing water saving equipment in commercial laundry or car wash.

◆◆ Note ◆◆

Please note that all projects must be pre-approved BEFORE YOU ORDER, PURCHASE OR INSTALL ANY EQUIPMENT.

The City will not approve retroactive projects.

Project Qualifications

- The rebate is for a project **other than** for plumbing fixtures or irrigation system upgrades, which are rebated through different programs. See back page for additional information on plumbing fixture and irrigation system upgrade rebates.
- All industrial, commercial, and institutional water users served by the Austin Water Utility, and those who are served by a utility that purchases 100% of their water from the City of Austin are eligible.
- Equipment and projects which receive funding must either:
 1. Remain in use at least **five (5) years**, or
 2. Be replaced by a process or equipment which achieves an **equal or greater** level of water savings, but the replacement equipment or process must be in place for the balance of the five year period. Operation and maintenance measures are not eligible.
- Funding is limited to a budgeted amount for each fiscal year.

- Projects will be selected based on water savings and funding available. Notification of pre-approval will be sent within 30 days after receipt of the proposals.
- The project must reduce current water consumption by at least 300 gallons per day.
- All water savings estimates must be documentable. The water saving project should be in an area that can be submetered or otherwise measured or where savings can be calculated based on some measured parameter. The rebate will be based on the documented savings following project completion. *(An example of documentation would be one to two months of meter readings, or data from time of operation charts for a specific piece of equipment for which water savings per unit of time have been quantified.)* Water Conservation staff will make the final determination of water savings estimates.
- Projects must meet all Federal, State, and City codes, and regulatory and permit requirements.
- Entities can apply for more than one project at a time, if the specific types of projects are different.

Water Conservation Incentive

The incentive available for each project is the lesser of:

- Half the cost of the purchase price of the equipment up to **\$100,000**, or
- \$1.00 for each gallon per day saved up to 100,000 gallons for a maximum rebate of up to **\$100,000**.

Instructions

1. Choose a project based on how it will improve water use efficiency or make additional water reuse possible. Look for energy savings and reduced pollution or pretreatment savings implications also.
2. Submit a proposal for review to the City of Austin. Funding is available on a first come, first served basis.
3. Include in your proposal sufficient documentation and technical information for us to evaluate and verify the cost and water savings of your project. Lack of sufficient information will delay project approval. We must be able to confirm projected saving estimates before pre-approval.
4. A representative from our department will contact you for a pre-installation visit. Pre-installation visits are required to confirm and review the items presented in your proposal.
5. Wait for written notification of project pre-approval before starting your project. The City of Austin will not rebate projects or portions of projects retroactively. The written notification will include a contract with the terms of the rebate.
6. A post-installation inspection will be scheduled and performed to verify installation and operation. A rebate check will be issued 4-6 weeks after the post-inspection.

Contacts and Information

To find out more about these programs, contact:

**Ron Humphrey
Austin Water Utility
PO Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767
(512) 972-0226**

or visit our web site at:

www.WaterWiseAustin.org

You may also be eligible for Energy Conservation Rebates (call 974-3405).

NOTE!! Sales and Property Tax Exemptions Available

Certain types of water conservation and water reuse equipment are also eligible for an exemption from State sales and property tax. Information on these exemptions can be found at the following web sites.

Sales Tax - <http://www.cpa.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/01-forms.html> -
and then go to item 01-339

Property Tax - <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/chiefeng/prop2/guidance.pdf>

In addition to City of Austin water customers, customers of the following utility districts that purchase water from Austin and are eligible for these rebates:

Branch Creek Estates, High Valley WS, Lost Creek MUD, Marsha WS, Night Hawk WSC, North Austin MUD #1, Northtown MUD, Shady Hollow MUD, Springwoods MUD, Travis County WCID #10, Wells Branch MUD and the Cities of Westlake Hills, Rollingwood, and Sunset Valley.

Plumbing Fixtures Rebates and Free Toilet Programs

The City of Austin's Water Conservation Program provides free water efficient showerheads and faucet aerators. Water efficient toilets are also available through either a free toilet program or through a rebate program. The free toilet program offers Niagara Flapperless tank-type toilets. A \$60 rebate is available with the free toilet, but only if a licensed plumber installs it. The customer may also receive a rebate of up to \$200 for the purchase and installation certain listed models of tank-type, pressure assist, and vacuum assist toilets. Only toilets on the list available from Water Conservation are eligible for the rebate. **Other models will not be rebated.**

For commercial type flush-valve toilets, a rebate of up to \$175 for replacement of the china and flush valve is offered. Certain blow-out type high water use urinals may also be eligible for this rebate.

All plumbing fixture replacements must be pre-approved by the City of Austin's Water Conservation Staff. Please call 512-974-2199 for more details or visit our web site at www.WaterWiseAustin.org for more information on the plumbing fixture programs.

Landscape Irrigation Equipment Rebates

The City of Austin's Water Conservation Program offers rebates of up to \$1,000 per water account for upgrades to existing irrigation systems. This includes irrigation controllers, rain shut-offs, check valves, pressure reducing valves and certain other items. All irrigation system upgrades must be pre-approved by the City of Austin's Water Conservation Staff to be eligible for a rebate. Please call 512-974-3535 or 974-2199 for more details or visit our web site at www.WaterWiseAustin.org for more information on the commercial irrigation system upgrade programs.

Coin-Operated Clothes Washer Rebates

Rebates for coin-operated clothes washers such as those used in laundry-mats, and apartment laundry areas are available, as are rebates for home clothes washers. Please call 512-974-2199 for more details or visit our web site at www.WaterWiseAustin.org for more information on the clothes washer programs.



Commercial Incentive Application

Company Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Phone Number : _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Zip _____

Installation Address: _____ Zip _____

Water Account Number: _____

Brief Description of Equipment Retrofit: _____

Please attach sufficient proof of water savings, a complete list of equipment with material cost, a project timeline, a conceptual design or description, and the expected equipment life to this sheet.

Total Estimated Cost of Equipment for Retrofit: _____

Estimated Water Savings (Gallons per Day): _____ gpd

Estimated Equipment Life: _____ years.

Project Start Date: _____ Estimated Completion Date: _____

Is the project in an area of your facility that can be submetered? Yes No

Agreement

I certify that this project meets the program eligibility requirements and that the information I have supplied on this application is true and correct. I understand that participation in this program is conditional upon acceptance by the City of Austin and that the City of Austin makes specific incentive commitments only through a letter of acceptance. I understand that if the City of Austin accepts my project, I will receive a letter of acceptance specifying the potential rebate amount, installation deadline, and other terms, which will become part of the agreement. Any changes to this agreement must be in writing and approved by the City of Austin. I agree that any installed equipment **will remain in use for a five (5) year period of time**, or that it will be replaced with equipment or processes which achieve an equal or greater level of water savings, or I will refund a prorated amount of incentive dollars to the City of Austin based on the actual period of time the equipment was used. I agree to report water savings achieved with the project annually for the next 5 years, and to provide information summarizing the project at the end of 5 years.

Authorized Signature: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____