



Central Iron County Water Conservancy District
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PRESS RELEASE

June 13, 2023

Cedar City Residents Now Eligible for Landscape Conversion Incentive Program

On May 24, Cedar City elected officials adopted the required landscaping ordinances to qualify for a turf buyback program for residents within Cedar City.

“Our residents who participate in the new turf removal program or new construction conservation standards will help our city conserve precious water, save themselves money on new water billing tiers, beautify their yards, and reduce maintenance time,” said Terri Hartley, Cedar City Council Member and Water Conservancy District Board Member.

“Landscapes consume about half of our municipal water and participation in the State turf removal incentive program is a great way to get a cash rebate to help cover your cost of renovation,” said Hartley.

The incentive program will pay residents \$1.50 per square foot of grass replaced with waterwise landscaping, a maximum of \$50,000 per property.

Residents should not remove or kill grass prior to application approval and a site visit. Doing so will disqualify them from the incentive.

Utah Water Savers has started an informational campaign called “Grass Doesn’t Belong Everywhere” to advertise the incentive and bring attention to unnecessary turfgrass that can be replaced with waterwise landscaping.

Using the incentive, residents can start replacing their unnecessary grass and are encouraged to use Locascapes principles when designing their waterwise yard. Locascapes is a 5-step landscape design method created specifically for Utah’s climate. Classes are available online, and the Water Conservancy District holds an in-person course each spring.

Program funding is available for the entire State, but to be eligible, municipalities must first adopt water-efficient landscaping ordinances for new development. If a municipality does not yet

qualify for the incentive, community members can contact their elected officials to discuss the adoption of a qualifying landscape ordinance.

Hartley said that Cedar Valley is currently under a Groundwater Management Plan from the State and over the next 50 years, the city could lose a significant amount of water rights. The State expects citizens to try to solve water issues locally if able, and conservation of this resource is a critical step towards solving the situation.

Utah received a record snowpack this year, however, the State has experienced many recent years of drought and continues to have an arid climate. The Utah Division of Water Resources, through the Utah Water Savers program, is promoting conservation through incentivizing residents to replace lawn with waterwise plants and landscaping and other incentives and rebates including smart irrigation controllers and water efficient toilets.

For more information about the Landscape Conversion Incentive Program and other rebates visit <https://conservewater.utah.gov/landscape-rebates/> or <https://utahwatersavers.com/>.

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Photo Captions:

Landscape Conversion: Get paid to remove your grass. Cedar City Residents can apply for a landscape conversion incentive on utahwatersavers.com.

Running Toilet: Residents can apply for several rebates, including one for water efficient toilet replacements, on utahwatersavers.com.

Who We are:

The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District is charged with conserving, developing and stabilizing the Cedar Valley water supply for the benefit of all current and future water users and consumers in the region. The Water District educates residents about conservation, recharge, reuse, and water supply strategies as it strives to meet the challenges of declining water levels and community growth. To 'Get to Know Your H2O' and learn more about how to water less, visit www.cicwcd.org.

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