



# Water Conservation Guidelines

Tempe encourages projects that not only beautify and enhance shared spaces but also increase the efficiency of water usage. Projects that may be considered include: landscape conversions from grass to desert lush, smart irrigation controller upgrades or high-efficiency sprinkler component upgrades.

Those considering projects in this category must meet with Tempe Water Conservation and Efficiency and the Planning Division staff **prior to applying or creating detailed plans**. Tempe Water Conservation and Efficiency provides additional funds to the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant Program and high quality applications that also meet water conservation criteria may have a higher chance of funding. The maximum available through the grant program is \$20,000.

*If your water conservation project is also a landscape project, please review the landscape project guidelines for additional project requirements.*

## Water Conservation Project Criteria

- Projects must implement a clear water conservation Best Management Practice (BMP) as defined by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and also clearly demonstrate water savings.
- Homeowners Associations (HOAs) seeking to increase landscape watering efficiency must participate in the HOA Landscape Water Budgeting Program, which is available at no cost. This program provides a monthly email comparing actual water usage to estimated efficient water usage.
- Water efficiency products installed, including sprinkler heads, nozzles and smart irrigation controllers, must be certified by the Environmental Protection Agency and include the WaterSense Label.
- HOA communities must have board members and property managers registered on the WaterSmart Customer Portal ([tempe.gov/watersmart](http://tempe.gov/watersmart)).
- HOAs are advised to engage all community members in projects, especially those that involve conversion of grass to desert landscapes. Engagement can increase the success of projects and facilitate stakeholder support. For a list of desert-friendly landscape plants, visit [amwua.org/plants](http://amwua.org/plants) or request a catalogue from Water Conservation.

## Process:

1. Contact Planning and Water Conservation to discuss the project and criteria.
2. **IF your application includes a landscape project**— submit application and plans to Neighborhood Services **BEFORE the application deadline**. Your application and plan will go through a preliminary site plan review process.
3. After review, staff will return your plan with comments for required or recommended changes. Please note that this may require you to get a revised bid from your vendor.
4. Submit **revised** plans with grant application by the deadline.
5. If awarded a grant, your project will be processed through Community Development to amend your HOA's existing landscape plan. Your award letter will cover next steps.

Water Conservation contact: [conservation@tempe.gov](mailto:conservation@tempe.gov) or 480-350-8351  
Development Landscape Planning contact: Michelle Dahlke or 480-350-8359