

Transcript for Before You Apply – HOAs and the Grass-to-Xeriscape Landscape Incentive

Welcome to the City of Mesa preparing to apply for a Grass-to-Xeriscape landscape incentive.

My name is Becky Zusy and I am a conservation coordinator with the city of Mesa. Let's get started.

We have increased our non residential incentive offerings.

Right now we have the grass to Xeriscape landscaping incentive.

That's up to \$50,000, and that's been funded thanks to the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona.

We also have increased our irrigation equipment upgrades.

They are now up to \$20,000.

Some important points to cover about this nonresidential grass to Xeriscape incentive.

That's the one we're going to be focused on today.

The eligible customers are all non residential customers, including homeowners associations, multifamily properties, businesses and churches.

You need to have at least 2500 square feet of grass that you'd like to remove in the future, and you'll have to replace that with 50% coverage by low water plants, which we will discuss further.

Incentive is \$2.00 per square foot for removing grass and replacing it with a Xeriscape in a 12 month period.

One property can maximize out at \$50,000. For homeowners associations, the applicant must be the owner of the property and a city of Mesa customer.

The HOA itself must have a unique tax ID or an employer identification number and the signature on the application needs to be by the President of the HOA as noted on the Arizona Corporation Commission online report, we're going to show you more details about that as well.

The grass must be relatively healthy in order to qualify, it has to have at least 70% health and needs to be routinely manicured and irrigated.

Minimum of 2500 square feet to qualify and when you replace that grass, it cannot be replaced with just artificial turf and rock.

As we said, it must be covered with replacement plants that are from the low water

use plant list that is set by the state Arizona Department of Water Resources. I'm going to show you the user friendly version of that on the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association web page.

So for example, I'd like to go with a Palo Verde tree.

I like trees.

I can look at different trees here or I can search for a plant I'm going to put in palo verde and get more information about them.

There's three types that are listed here and I might just look at this one and get some information about the size, if it has any special features, this ones a native for example.

The area that you replacing, we've said this a few times must have 50% of the canopy coverage of the area.

Well, what does that mean?

Well, we have a website that calculator that you can go on.

So again, I'll show you where that is.

And we said, you know, I'm going to click here, this is the button that I clicked was to change it from residential to commercial.

There's some information available about how to use this calculator, but again remember I went with the palo verde.

I'm going to put that in my calculator and see if I can add that to my plant list.

I like that blue palo verde.

I'm going to add it to my list and you'll notice that below that starts populating my plant list.

I'd like to add 10 palo verdes and also like to add maybe some lantana.

You know, click on that here and then I'm going to change my quantity down here.

You'll notice that the canopy coverage is updated as I add plants and this is the number that you'll use to indicate the 50% coverage. You have the option to download or print your plant list and use it to work with your landscaper, your board, all of the people involved in the project.

I need to show you where we're where we're looking for this information.

Everything is on our website.

Let me show you where that is.

If you were to go on our general website to conservation, you'll notice a lot of options right here.

I'm going to click on that commercial and HOA customers and in this instance we're

talking like we're looking at an HOA.

And here are those applications we just talked a lot about some of the eligibility and program requirements and now we're going to start to talk about how to start the application.

There are a number of documents and pieces of information that you'll need to have ready in order to begin the application.

First you will need to provide the information from the Arizona Corporation Commission for your particular website.

This one we're going to show you where to do that.

Sorry, I have a lot of windows open.

This one is Granite Ridge is the name of the HOA.

I'm going to find the actual link to be right here and this shows me specifically my entity number as well as information about the board.

So right here you notice the president is listed.

When we say we want the link, we mean this link.

It is unique to your entity.

You will copy that link and include it with your application.

But we also need the city of Mesa utility account numbers that serve your HOA common areas.

So I'm going to show you a paper bill.

You'll find that number in the upper right hand corner.

Many, if not most, HOA's have multiple account numbers and certainly multiple water meters.

If it gets a little overwhelming, you are welcome to take a photo of your paper bill and include that with your application. If you use the my Utility Account Portal online you'll notice that the information about your account is in the upper left hand corner.

With your application you will provide a W9 form which will indicate you will indicate your tax ID or employer identification number on there.

We'll need you to include three to five current pictures of each area that is going to be converted throughout this project and this will go to our engineering department as well as show us some evidence of the state of the grass that it is currently in place.

Aerial maps.

So many of you might have a property map of your of your HOA, or you can use Google Earth.

Or if you don't have those things, you're welcome to use the Maricopa County Assessors Office map function.

So this is an example.

So on the left you'll see this as a property map and the applicant indicated with just general circles and numbering of where they were going to remove the grass. They added these numbers to coordinate with the photos they were submitting.

This one on the right gives Google Earth and just highlighted the areas with that.

This is an example of what the Maricopa County Assessors Office aerial photos look like on their map function.

You can use this yellow circle to put in the number or excuse me, the address of your property and then you will get all sorts of information about your property, but you'll notice it highlights the areas and then we indicated on this with a red square.

This is the area that hypothetically, they are thinking of removing and their grass area.

Back to the Maricopa County Assessors office.

You'll need the assessors parcel number.

Let me show you where that is.

Same property.

Just wanted to show you when you click you will be able to access the parcel number in the upper left hand.

A landscape plan is very important for this.

It will provide us information with about where you are going to plant, what kind of plants you are going to put in and the quantity of plants.

This is an example of a dimensioned landscape plan.

You'll notice it's about location of all the plants, and then on this side it shows the actual plant legend.

I'm going to zoom in on that for you.

This shows you what trees and plants they're putting in the ground.

It tells you quantities and it also tells you the size at planting.

This is just a different example.

Again, it's a legend.

It shows you the types of plants that are going in the ground and then it does show you (it's very small) the quantity of those plants.

Reminder I've said it a couple times, so thank you for listening.

This is all available on our website, so you will look to it here.

The two applications are under these two orange headers.

Grass-to-Xeriscape and Landscape Irrigation equipment incentives.

Then when you go and apply it will look something like this on the right and where you'll be inputting all of your information.

Thank you so much for your interest and we look forward to working with you and best of luck and let us know if we can help you.

Thank you.