

Goleta Water District Smart Landscape Rebate Program Monitoring Plan

Data analysis and monitoring are key components of the Goleta Water District's (District) Smart Landscape Rebate Program (SLRP), both to monitor funds, ensure water and energy savings are realized, and for modifying subsequent rounds of funding to improve water and energy savings and cost effectiveness. Program oversight for the SLRP includes an application from the customer, with a site visit, photographs and receipts, and the right for the District to inspect landscaping both before and after approval and installation. Only preapproved expenses can be reimbursed.

Project benefits will be thoroughly analyzed by assessing pre and post project water use for each project to calculate water and energy saved and to compare pre-project estimates vs. actual savings. These water savings will also provide the inputs for the energy calculations to determine total GHG reductions.

To accomplish this, the District will review monthly water use history for all applicants to compare pre- and post-project water use. The District will analyze monthly water use records, identifying each project implementation date and establishing a period prior to implementation that will create 12 months of baseline water use. 12 months of post project water use data will also be analyzed to compare against the initial baseline data. Comparing pre and post project 12 month periods with similar weather will be attempted as much as is practical. Energy savings will be calculated based on the water savings verified in the water savings analysis, and converted to estimate total GHG reductions using the tool provided by DWR for the 2014 Water Energy Grant Program.

Since water use during the initial plant establishment period is often higher, water and energy savings estimates are likely be conservative relative to the 15-year project savings. Plant irrigation needs will decline over time, including after our post project analysis and reporting. The focus on turf removal and laundry-to-landscape projects intends to help offset this trend since these components are associated with higher and more immediate water savings. These projects will likely result in additional water and energy savings over the expected life of these projects that may not be captured within the grant reporting window.

The consistent collection of onsite data is critical to monitoring the use of funds and informing the final analysis that quantifies the water and energy savings relative to the costs of the program. For example, detailed site data has been instrumental in the past in analyzing why savings may be higher or lower than anticipated. For this reason an electronic measuring tool, and a second laptop are included in the budget to ensure that site data is collected to run analysis for incorporation into future programs.