



Program Guidelines for Irrigation Professionals



1. Funds are distributed on a first come basis to applicants that have met all program criteria, with a maximum of \$2,000 per property while funds are available. This phase of the program is only open to homeowners that have higher than average water use. Please direct interested clients to fill out an Interest Form by scanning the QR Code located on the flyer.
2. All irrigation work and installation of plants must be completed by a pre-approved Irrigation Professional/Landscaping Company that is Florida Water Star Accredited Professional certified, has a current Florida Irrigation Specialty Contractor License or has attended one of the Irrigation Level UP trainings hosted by Alachua County Water Conservation (WC) staff. The list of qualified professionals is available on the MyYardOurWater.org website. To be added to the pre-approved list, please contact Eliana Bardi, ebardi@alachuacounty.us, 352-264-6810.
3. An Irrigation System Full Diagnostics is a pre-requisite to participate in the program, and eligible for up to \$75 rebate. The Full Diagnostics will be performed by either WC staff or a pre-approved Irrigation Professional and a report will be provided to homeowners identifying water conservation upgrades eligible for the rebate program. Any work performed that does not qualify for rebate funds (see below) should be clearly identified on the invoice or provided on a separate invoice.
4. **No new irrigation may be added.** Low-volume or micro irrigation can only replace high-volume irrigation and may not be added to areas that did not have irrigation prior to participating in the program.
5. To be eligible for the native and Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) rebate, permanent irrigation must be removed from the area where FFL will be added. Only temporary irrigation can be used for establishment (up to one year).
6. The Irrigation Level UP template invoice must be used (additional documentation can be added) and must include itemized information on the following:
 - ✓ A description of all rebate-qualifying work performed
 - ✓ The square footage of permanent irrigation removed
 - ✓ The number of rotors and spray heads removed and/or capped
 - ✓ An itemized list of native/FFL plants purchased and installed, if any
 - ✓ Details of leak repairs or retrofit work (how many, etc.)
 - ✓ Details of water saving devices (rainfall shut-off device, flow sensor, etc.) including item price and installation cost

Any work performed that does not qualify for rebate funds (see below) should be clearly identified on the invoice or provided on a separate invoice.

7. **Rebate funds may be used for:**

- a. **Level 1 Services:** *If starred deficiencies are identified in Level 1 services during the Irrigation System Full Diagnostics, corrections will be required to legally operate the automatic irrigation system.*
 - ✓ Irrigation System Full Diagnostics
 - Includes adjustment of watering schedule to maximize savings
 - ✓ * Repair leaks and correct overspray
 - ✓ * Add/replace rainfall shut-off device (soil moisture sensor or traditional)
 - ✓ Remove, cap, or disable irrigation heads/zones on established vegetation.
 - ✓ Properties on irrigation wells, add flow sensor/leak detection
- b. **Level 2 Services**, such as:
 - ✓ Upgrade to a Smart Irrigation Controller *with flow sensor* (flow sensor not required if irrigation system is on a separate meter)

- ✓ Upgrade spray zones to high-efficiency rotating sprinkler nozzles (must upgrade entire zone, nozzles must be pressure regulated at the head, prioritize mixed-head zones)
- ✓ Replace existing high-volume irrigation in landscaped beds (>0.5 gallon per minute) with microirrigation. Please note you will need to provide the number of rotors and spray heads removed and/or capped.
- ✓ Redesign system to create hydrozones (i.e. grass on a separate zone from shrubs)
- ✓ 1 Year Maintenance Agreement

To advance to Level 3 Services, property must not be deficient in any Level 2 services. Property owner must also sign maintenance service agreement with a pre-approved irrigation professional. The maintenance agreement shall commence following completion of rebate services and continue for at least one full year post-upgrades.

c. **Lever 3 Services**, such as:

- ✓ Add flow sensor/leak detection (required for properties with a permanent irrigation footprint over ¼ acre, if irrigation not already on a separate meter)
- ✓ Replace permanent irrigation areas with Florida Native/Florida Friendly Plants per FFL principles (right plant, right place, etc.). Permanent irrigation must be removed and replaced with temporary irrigation for establishment only (up to 1 year). The use of soil amendments/compost is strongly encouraged and eligible for rebate funds (look for compost with the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA))

Rebate funds may NOT be used for:

- a. Replacing existing landscaping beds or turf, or adding plants to existing areas where irrigation is not removed
- b. Installing or maintaining backflow prevention
- c. Applying fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides (use of soil amendments/compost with the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA) is eligible for rebate funds).
- d. Purchase and installing hardscapes, such as patios and pavers
- e. Artificial turf
- f. Large landscaping boulders
- g. Adding irrigation to areas that were previously non-irrigated

Table 1 – Eligible Upgrades and rebate amounts (up to \$2,000) for residential customers

LEVELS	<p style="text-align: center;">ELIGIBLE UPGRADES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To move to the next level, complete all of the applicable activities in previous levels</p>	REBATE
LEVEL 1	Irrigation System Full Diagnostic (Pre-requisite - free if provided by County staff) <i>Includes adjustment of watering schedule to maximize savings</i>	Up to \$75
	*Repair Leaks and overspray	50% of cost
	*Upgrade/replace rainfall shut-off device (soil moisture sensor or traditional)	Up to \$100
	Adjust coverage and head placement	50% of cost
	Remove, cap, or disable irrigation heads on established vegetation	50% of cost
	<i>(if starred* deficiencies are found, corrections will be required to legally operate the system. Properties on irrigation wells must also install flow sensor/leak detection at this level)</i>	
LEVEL 2	Upgrade to a Smart Irrigation Controller with flow sensor	Up to \$250
	Upgrade spray zones to high-efficiency rotating sprinkler nozzles (must upgrade entire zone, nozzles must be pressure regulated at the head, prioritize mixed head zones first)	50% cost
	Upgrade spray zone to microirrigation (landscape beds only)	50% cost
	Redesign system to create hydrozones (i.e. grass on a separate zone from shrubs)	50% cost
	1 year maintenance agreement	Up to \$200
LEVEL 3	Add flow sensor/leak detection (required for properties with more than ¼ acre remaining permanent irrigation if irrigation not on separate meter)	Up to \$150
	Upgrade your landscape to native or Florida-Friendly plants (remove permanent irrigation, temporary irrigation allowed for establishment)	50% cost