



Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements Rebate

On the 'wet coast' of BC, it is easy to take our water supply for granted. In dry summer months, water consumption triples, even though there is much less water available. Most of this is used to 'inefficiently' water lawns and gardens.

The Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements Rebate program was created to help residents conserve water outdoors by improving the water efficiency of automated irrigation systems and/or by improving the water-holding capacity of soil through addition of nutrient-rich amendments. Make yours a WaterSmart garden (visit www.RDNrebates.ca for details).

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE:

- Must be a residential landowner within the RDN, including electoral areas (A, B, C, E, F, G, H) and member municipalities (Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach).
- Soil Improvements must be completed on garden/landscape area of 37 m² (400 ft²) or more, added amendments must be 50 mm (2 inch) in depth for garden beds and 6 mm (1/4 inch) in depth for lawns.
- Irrigation Upgrades must be completed by an irrigation professional certified by the Irrigation Industry Association of BC (IIABC). For a list of local professionals visit www.irrigationbc.com, click on "Find a Certified Professional Here" and search by Classification ("Technician") and Area ("Vancouver Island/Coast").
- Each private property is eligible for one (1) rebate over the lifetime of the program.
- All work must be completed between January 1 and December 15, 2026

REBATE AMOUNT: Up to \$1,075 per residential property is available to help offset the cost of landscape upgrades to improve water efficiency. Applicants that complete both Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements are eligible to receive a \$100 bonus!

PRE-APPROVAL AND CLAIMS: A limited number of rebates are available; funds are available on a first come, first served basis. Apply for pre-approval to "reserve" funds for eligible work for up to 90 days. Claims must be received by December 15, 2026. The RDN reserves the right to inspect or verify gardens prior to pre-approval. Any qualified property that receives the rebate may be subject to onsite inspection, verification, or follow up contact by the RDN.

CATEGORY	REBATE	DESCRIPTION
Soil Improvements	50% off* up to \$300	Amendment and improvement of existing garden soil The addition of nutrient-rich compost, manure, topsoil, and/or organic mulch improves the structure of your soil, increasing its water holding capacity. *This rebate covers half the costs of soil improvements, up to a maximum of \$300 costs.
Irrigation Upgrades	Up to \$675	Improve the efficiency of existing automated residential irrigation systems Upgrade your current automated residential irrigation system to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A smart controller (up to \$100);- Rain sensor (up to \$75) Convert your irrigation hardware to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drip irrigation (up to \$400);- Matched precipitation (MP) rotors (up to \$100).
BONUS	\$100	Complete both Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements to receive a BONUS rebate! Applicants who complete both rebate categories (Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements) are eligible to receive a bonus \$100!

HOW THE REBATE WORKS

STEP 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>SUBMIT PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION Forms are available at www.RDNrebates.ca. Submit your pre-approval by: Email: watersmart@rdn.bc.ca Mail or in person: Attn: Drinking Water & Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2 Include with your pre-approval: 1) Completed Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements Pre-approval Application form. 2) Before photos of the garden area you plan to improve, or the irrigation system components you plan to upgrade. Submitted photos need to have some indication of scale (i.e. include ruler or measure stick) and relative position to compare before and after (i.e. part of your home in the photos). Upon pre-approval, the RDN will notify you that funds are reserved for eligible work for up to 90 days.</p>
OPTIONAL <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>ATTEND A FREE Team WaterSmart WORKSHOP Visit www.TeamWaterSmart.ca for workshop topics, dates, and registration information.</p>
STEP 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>COMPLETION OF QUALIFYING WORK Complete work outlined in the “Describe your plan” section of submitted Pre-approval Application for Irrigation Upgrades and/or Soil Improvements. SOIL IMPROVEMENTS can be completed by the homeowner or by an IIABC certified landscape professional. An area of 37 m² (400 ft²) or greater must be improved, see Soil Amendment Reference Table on Pre-approval Application and on this rebates webpage (www.RDNrebates.ca). For IRRIGATION UPGRADES, the installation of eligible irrigation components MUST BE COMPLETED BY AN IIABC CERTIFIED IRRIGATION PROFESSIONAL (www.irrigationbc.com). Review the Irrigation Upgrades Eligible Components Checklist on the Claim Form and on the rebate Frequently Asked Questions webpage (www.RDNrebates.ca) to ensure upgraded items meet rebate requirements.</p>
STEP 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>SUBMIT YOUR CLAIM FORM Forms are available at www.RDNrebates.ca. Submit your claim by: Email: watersmart@rdn.bc.ca Mail or in person: Attn: Drinking Water & Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2 Include with your claim: 1) Completed Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements Rebate Claim Form. If completing upgrades to your automated irrigation system, include the Irrigation Upgrades Eligible Components Checklist. 2) Receipt(s) and/or invoice(s) marked PAID, including DATE and ITEMIZED purchase details. 3) Photo(s) of the improved garden/lawn and/or efficiency increases of automated irrigation system, clearly showing upgrades. Include reference points (i.e. measuring stick) and ensure markers in “before” photos are present and clearly show “after” photos are the same property. Allow 6 weeks for payment.</p>
Visit www.RDNrebates.ca to see other rebates available from the RDN	