



What Is WELO?

The Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance is a statewide water conservation law for new and renovated landscapes.

The ordinance applies to any single-family or multi-family residential, public, institutional, or commercial project that requires a permit, plan check or design review from the local reviewing agency **and** meets one of the following size thresholds:

- **New construction projects** with a total landscape area greater than **500 sq ft**
- **Rehabilitations of existing landscape** with a total landscape area greater than **2,500 sq ft**

Enforcement

The ordinance is enforced by cities, counties, and in some areas, water agencies. Before starting your project, check with the local reviewing agency for requirements specific to your region.

WELO Submittal Requirements

Prior to landscape construction, submit a signed **Landscape Documentation Package** along with your building permit application.

This includes:

- Project Information
- Water Budget/Water Use Calculator
- Soil Management Report
- Landscape Design Plan, Plant Legend and Specifications
- Irrigation Plan
- Hydrozone Plan
- Grading Plan

After the permit is approved and the landscape installed, submit a **Certificate of Completion** which includes:

- Project Information
- Certification that landscape is built per plans
- As-built drawings (if necessary to show major changes)
- Irrigation diagram showing hydrozones
- Irrigation scheduling parameters
- Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance Schedule
- Irrigation Audit Report
- Soil Report (if not submitted during design)
- Verification of implementation of report recommendations

Is your project under 2,500 square feet?

Some jurisdictions offer a prescriptive pathway to compliance for projects with less than 2,500 square feet of total landscape area.

Prescriptive Compliance Option

(for applicable projects, where available)

Before construction, submit the following documents to the local reviewing agency:

- Landscape Design Plan
- Project Information
- Prescriptive Path (Appendix D) Checklist

At the final inspection, submit the following documents to the property owner:

- Certificate of Completion
- Certificate of Installation
- Irrigation Schedule
- Schedule of Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance

Need help with WELO compliance?



Download our
WELO Tool Kit

→ www.StopWaste.org/WELO



Benefits of Water Efficient Landscapes

Water efficient landscapes help stretch our limited water supplies. Additional benefits include:

- healthier soil and plants
- reduced irrigation runoff
- reduced pollution of waterways
- less green waste
- increased drought resistance
- smaller carbon footprint

Also consider the Bay-Friendly Rating process, which goes above and beyond the state ordinance, helping create healthy, high-performance landscapes that provide habitat, reduce maintenance, save energy, and reduce waste. Details at ReScapeCA.org.

WELO Resources

- WELO Tool Kit with checklists and calculator: www.StopWaste.org/WELO
- Sustainable landscape resources for Alameda County: www.StopWaste.org/landscape
- California Dept of Water Resources: www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency
- Directory of sources for bulk recycled compost and mulch: www.lawntogarden.org
- Directory of Bay-Friendly Raters and Bay-Friendly Qualified Landscape Professionals: ReScapeCA.org



WELO REQUIREMENTS

for New Landscape Construction
and Landscape Renovations

*A guide to California's
Water Efficient
Landscape Ordinance*