



Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate Program

Residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for nearly 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation. It is estimated that as much as 50% of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems. Irrigation control technologies can significantly reduce overwatering by applying water when plants need it. Replacing a standard clock timer with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can save an average home nearly 8,800 gallons of water annually.

WaterSense labeled Smart Irrigation Controllers, which act like a thermostat for your sprinkler system by telling it when to turn on and off, use local weather and landscape conditions to tailor watering schedules to actual conditions on site. There are several methods used by different controllers to determine how much water to use. Some controllers may allow for use of more than one method. Here's a list of the common methods used by smart controllers to determine the watering time:

- **Historical:** Uses historical weather & water use data for your area to determine what amount of water is required. Typically it only resets the time monthly. While the historic data is not perfect, it still gives significant water savings for most users. You will periodically need to manually override the automatic controller settings, especially if you have unusually hot weather for the month. To setup the controller on some models you simply enter your zip code and it accesses the historic data from its memory.
- **Historical with a sensor:** Uses historical data to determine an initial reduction in watering time, but then further adjusts the time based on a sensor. Typically a temperature sensor is used. If the daily high temperature is higher than the historical data says is normal, it adds more time, if the temperature is lower, it reduces the watering time. This gives more accuracy than the historic data alone will.
- **Off-site data:** Uses water and/or weather data provided by a remote provider. The controller uses a radio, Internet, or phone connection to obtain the data from either a central data provider, or from a local weather station. If the data comes from a nearby weather station it can be very accurate.

- **Weather station:** This controller has its own weather station that you install with it. It uses real-time data from the weather station to adjust the watering times. It is very accurate if it uses a good weather station.
- **Moisture Sensor:** A moisture sensor (often more than one) is placed under the irrigation system to measure the actual amount of moisture in the soil. The irrigation time is based on the amount of moisture present. Some require regular maintenance, others do not. There are advantages and disadvantages to each type of sensor. Different types of sensors work better with some types of soils than they do with others. This type needs extra time to calibrate the sensors and make adjustments; but it is a very accurate method of determining watering times.

How do I know if my Smart Irrigation Controller qualifies?

To qualify for a rebate, you must purchase a Smart Irrigation Controller that:

- Displays a WaterSense label, which meets the EPA criteria.
- That creates or modifies irrigation schedules based on evapotranspiration (ET) principles.

WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the goal of protecting the future of the US's water supply.

To Qualify for a Rebate

- The Smart Irrigation Controller must display a WaterSense Label when purchased.
- Smart Irrigation Controller must be installed in City of Ceres water service area.
- A completed Rebate Form, copy of your current water bill and proof of purchase for the Smart Irrigation Controller.
- Rebates are subject to inspection by City of Ceres Water Conservation staff to insure all requirements have been met.
- All rebates are \$50 and are on a first come first serve basis and are subject to availability of funds.
- All rebates will be in the form of a check, not a credit to your account.
- Rebate applications for Smart Irrigation Controllers must be received by the City of Ceres within 180 days of purchase and installation.

How it will work

Once the Water Conservation program receives your completed application along with your current water bill, copy of your receipt and proof that it meets the Water Sense standards; you will receive a phone call to set up an appointment to verify the installation of the Smart Irrigation Controller. Once the installation and equipment have been verified, a check will be processed and mailed to you, this process may take between 4 to 8 weeks. Should you need further assistance please contact our office at (209) 538-5732.