

Complying with San Francisco's LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission provides water to the businesses, homes and landscapes that make San Francisco a unique and beautiful place to live. To comply with the California Water Conservation in Landscaping Act, San Francisco adopted a new Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance and companion rules that expand the planting and irrigation requirements for all landscapes.

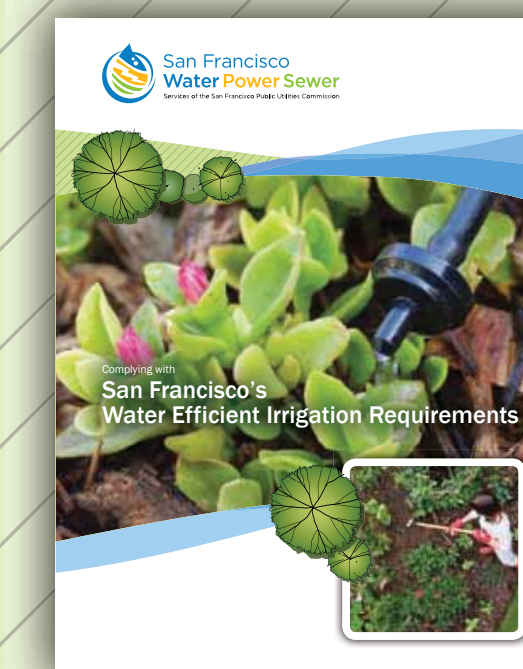
Tiered Approach

To address San Francisco's small lot and landscape sizes, a tiered approach was adopted for new or modified landscape projects over 1,000 square feet. Tier 1 projects complete a simple on-line application, while Tier 2 projects submit landscape and irrigation plans for review and approval by a landscape architect. For large landscapes over 10 acres, our agency developed a programmatic approach to compliance, rather than through the review and approval of individual landscape projects that could be considered routine maintenance. The compliance plan approach prioritizes phased implementation of landscape projects, beginning with projects that have the greatest water savings.



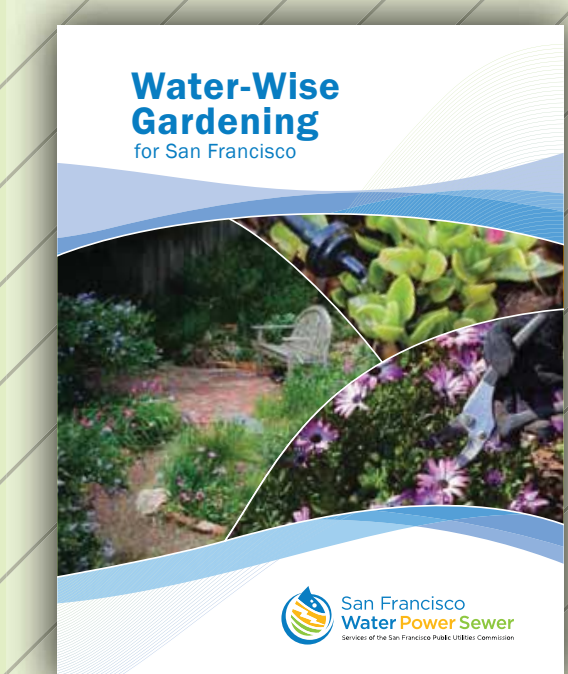
Education & Resources

To help homeowners, landscape architects and professionals understand the requirements of San Francisco's Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance, we provide the following materials and resources:



Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance Guidebook

This user friendly guidebook outlines the applicability and documentation for Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects.



Water-Wise Gardening for San Francisco

Tailored for all gardening levels, this comprehensive handbook illustrates landscape and irrigation tips and techniques for a beautiful low water use garden.



Water-Wise Demonstration Garden

Our agency sponsors a 2,000 square foot Water-Wise Demonstration Garden that showcases how a landscape designed with the principles of the Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance such as mulch, hydrozones, efficient irrigation, and climate appropriate plants, can also look lush and beautiful.



Programs and Incentives

We offer Tier 2 project plan review at no cost, free irrigation evaluations, and a large landscape grant program for sites that retrofit inefficient irrigation systems to meet compliance with the ordinance and save water.



Free Gardening Workshops

Throughout the year, free workshops are available at the Water-Wise Demonstration Garden. Classes include low water use landscaping, organic gardening, pollution prevention and urban ecological food production.