

WHAT IS MWELO?

MWELo is a statewide water efficiency law for new and renovated landscapes in California. It sets limits on high water use plants and irrigation equipment and incentivizes a holistic approach to landscaping that incorporates healthy soils, adapted plants and alternative water supplies like graywater, harvested rainwater, and recycled water.

WHY IS MWELO NEEDED?

Traditionally designed landscapes incorporate plants and irrigation that use too much or waste water; contribute to polluted water runoff into streams, lakes, and the ocean; overspray causing water damage to buildings, fences, streets; and create a lot of pruning, mowing and trimming green waste. Sustainable landscapes can be beautiful and functional. Research shows that creating and maintaining landscapes that meet MWELo use 80% less water; require 60% less maintenance; produce 50% less yard waste.

RESOURCES

Planning Division

(805) 875-8275

(805) 875-8213

planning@ci.lompoc.ca.us

Building and Safety Division

(805) 875-8220

building@ci.lompoc.ca.us

Solid Waste Division

(805) 875-8024

sw_admin@ci.lompoc.ca.us

Urban Forestry Division

(805) 875-8034

urbanforestry@ci.lompoc.ca.us

CALGreen Standards

www.bsc.ca.gov/Home/CALGreen.aspx

California Department of Water Resources

www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency



MWELo

MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

California's guide to new or
renovated landscape
requirements

DOES USING LESS WATER MEAN LANDSCAPES NEED TO BE ROCKS AND CACTUS?

No, the ordinance encourages the use of a variety of plants including natives and climate-appropriate plants. Lawns and other non-adapted plants can be planted as long as the water budget is not exceeded.

WHO NEEDS TO COMPLY?

- Any development project that requires a permit, plan review or check.

AND meets one of these thresholds:

- New construction project with a total landscape area greater than 500 sq. ft.
- Rehabilitation of existing landscape with a total landscape area greater than 2,500 sq. ft.

HOW DOES YOUR PROJECT COMPLY?

Prior to construction, submit a signed Landscape Documentation Package that includes:

- Project Information
- Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet/Water Budget Calculator
- Soil Management Report (Required after grading, but before planting)
- Landscape Design Plan
- Irrigation Design Plan

Complete Solid Waste Division's requirements as noted in the next page.

After the project is approved, construct the landscape according to the approved plans. Once completed, submit the Certificate of Completion and Substantial Compliance form.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO NOTE

- Lompoc Municipal Code requirements apply to landscape plans
- Project specific conditions may apply outside of the listed requirements above
- Contact the Urban Forestry Division for more information on preferred species of trees in City rights of way
- If your project is in a Very High Hazard Zone, there are additional landscape requirements

SOLID WASTE REQUIREMENTS

Under Senate Bill 1383, jurisdictions are required to meet an annual procurement target through the purchase or acquisition of recovered organic waste products (ROWPs) (compost, mulch, renewable energy in the form of fuel, heat, electricity).

Projects that trigger MWELo or are required to submit a landscape plan are required to follow the directions below and submit all forms to the Solid Waste Division.

1. Submit a Letter of Attestation at the time of application
2. Prior to the issuance of a Building Permit, submit Part A of the Direct Service Provider Agreement
3. If ROWPs are purchased during your project, keep your receipts and at the end of each calendar year, submit the Direct Service Provider Reporting Excel
4. Prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, submit Part B of the Direct Service Provider Agreement

More information on ROWPs and where to find these products can be found at calrecycle.ca.gov/orgamics/slcp/procurement/