

Marshall Water Softener Optimization/Rebate Program- DRAFT

The City of Marshall partnered with Bolton & Menk and received a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Chloride Reduction Grant with funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. \$100,000 is available for optimization and replacement of water softeners to help reduce the chloride discharge into the Redwood River.

Program information:

1. The City will advertise change in water hardness and having residents/businesses adjust hardness setting to 8 grains. 2 weeks of advertising, wait 2 weeks, second round of advertising
 - a. Advertising: City Website, Facebook (boosted), other social media, radio ads, utility bill inserts
2. Advertise free optimization, replacement of timer-based softeners. Rebate forms for replacement will be posted on website
 - a. Optimization
 - i. Resident/commercial facility will contact contractor from approved list
 - ii. Contractor will inspect softener to determine if it is eligible for replacement
 - iii. Eligible water softeners must be in working condition and in operation. Softeners must be timer-based (initially, see # 4).
 - If eligible and resident is interested in replacement, contractor may provide an estimate for a replacement softener with a minimum rated efficiency of 4000 gr/lb. Resident may seek additional estimates.
 - a. Resident (see information below on commercial) will receive full \$500 rebate (\$700 if ≥ 5000 gr/lb efficiency) if they choose the contractor that inspected softener initially (if contractor will waive \$50 fee).
 - b. If resident chooses different contractor, resident will receive \$450 (\$650 if ≥ 5000 gr/lb efficiency). Contractor will receive \$50 for inspection/optimization.
 - c. All replaced softeners must be set to a hardness of 8 and optimized for low salt use as part of the installation.
 - d. Contractor will set old softener hardness to 8. If it will be longer than 1 month before installation of new softener, contractor will also optimize the softener if possible.
 - If not eligible for replacement, contractor will adjust hardness to 8 and complete the rest of the optimization for low salt use, and record the information on form provided by BMI.
 - If softener is eligible for replacement, but resident doesn't want to replace it, contractor will optimize softener as much as possible.
 - Contractor will submit form(s) signed by resident to City of Marshall Wastewater (and provide forms to Bolton & Menk), along with an invoice for payment (\$50 per home). This may be for multiple inspections/optimizations.

- b. Payment for inspection/optimization will be made from the City directly to the contractor. Both resident and contractor/vendor will sign documents to be submitted to help ensure work was completed.
- 3. Replacement/equipment modification
 - a. If resident/facility is eligible and decides to replace softener. Contractor should verify eligibility and may replace softener and bill customer.
 - b. Customer submits rebate form to City including the required forms from the contractor.
 - c. Contractor provides copies of the required forms to Bolton & Menk.
 - d. Rebates are subject to availability of funds
 - i. City will need to track fund balance and possible post a notice on the website and notify contractors when funds are getting low
- 4. Phase 2: Halfway through the program, if funds remain, open the rebate program to include old (15+ year) inefficient softeners and inefficient softeners (<4000 gr/lb with new softener at least 500 gr/lb more efficient)

Marshall Water Softener Optimization/Rebate Program- Commercial

Same steps as residential, but payment based on water use for larger softener systems.

Blending valves are eligible for rebate.

Other salt reduction work such as brine reclamation but show substantial salt reduction and will be approved on a case-by case basis or may added to the rebate schedule if determined appropriate.

Payment schedule based on water use. DRAFT SCHEDULE

Facility	Avg. Monthly Water use (gal)	Rebate
Commercial 1 (small business, 4000 - 4999 gr/lb)	<20,000	\$ 500
Commercial 1 (small business ≥5000 gr/lb)	<20,000	\$ 700
Commercial 2 (e.g. 5 unit apt. bldg. and up)	20,000 - 150,000	\$ 1,000
Commercial 3	150,001-300,000	\$ 1,500
Commercial 4	300,001 - 1,500,000	\$ 2,000
Commercial 5	1,500,000 - 3,000,000	\$ 3,000
Commercial 6	>3,000,000	\$ 4,000

DIY option- may be added in second phase or later if funds remain

- For homeowners that want to purchase and install their own softener they must first have it inspected by an approved contractor to determine eligibility for rebate.
 - a. If eligible, homeowner must purchase a softener with a minimum efficiency of 4000 gr/lb. and set it to 8 gr/lb. hardness. Must conform to NSF/ANSI standard 44.
 - b. Homeowner installs softener and contacts the approved contractor to inspect the settings and adjust hardness setting if needed, and complete further optimization if possible.
 - c. Contractor will be paid a total of \$50 for both visits. Contractor will have the option to provide information on softeners their company sells.
 - d. Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$450 rebate.

Note: The current grant expires 6/30/23. The legislature extended the funding availability. There is an option to extend the grant through 6/30/24 if funds are not spent by 6/30/23.