



HIP Whatcom County HIP-Eligible Expenses

The following homeowner-incurred expenses are eligible for reimbursement through HIP with invoices/receipts showing work completed or materials purchased necessary to complete an approved HIP BMP.

Materials

Native Landscaping BMP:

- Plants native to Washington according to the USDA PLANTS Database <http://plants.usda.gov> and their cultivars. Plants on the HIP plant list meet this criterion.
- Native dogwood hybrids listed on the HIP plant list.
- Low-phosphorus mulch from the City of Bellingham Approved Mulch for Use in the Lake Whatcom Watershed list (current version at time of ordering). Receipts must show supplier business name, mulch name, and quantity purchased.
- Cardboard for sheet mulching
- Edging materials—Any material approximately 6-8 inches high that functions to keep mulch in place and the necessary materials to hold the edging in place (e.g., wooden stakes).
- Temporary wildlife protection materials—Temporary fencing materials, cages, or similar designed to protect new plants for 2-4 years then be removed when plants are large enough to withstand wildlife browsing.

All other HIP BMPs:

- Materials included in the Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP) 2.0 BMP – Material Specifications document (Version 1.0, April, 2017). Only materials required for the specific BMP installed and listed in the approved project application are reimbursable.

Tools and Equipment

- Irrigation equipment including:
 - Rainwater harvesting systems installed to water new native landscaping
 - Hoses and connectors

- Sprinklers and soaker hoses
 - Timers
- Hand tools necessary to install native landscaping or other approved HIP BMP, temporary wildlife protection, and irrigation systems or perform maintenance like weeding
- Work gloves
- Power tools necessary to install native landscaping or other approved HIP BMP (rent or purchase with documentation that purchase price is lower than rental price)

Services & Fees

- Whatcom County Natural Resource Notification of Activity permit fees
- Delivery fees for approved HIP materials
- Disposal fees for noxious weeds, weed cloth, or impervious surfaces removed from site prior to installation of a HIP BMP
- Blow in mulch services
- Design or installation services from a business with expertise in landscaping, landscape design, drainage systems, rainwater harvesting, or similar AND a current Washington State Business license. If the homeowner is the business owner, prior approval from Whatcom County Public Works Accounting is needed.