

## Volunteer/Intern Position Description

### **Title of Position: Monterey Bay Friendly Landscaping Program Assistant**

**Goal of Position:** Certify 10-20 residential and commercial landscapes in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties as Monterey Bay Friendly (MBF) Landscapes.



**Program Description:** Monterey Bay Friendly Landscapes are required to meet 10 basic ecological design and maintenance standards that maximize water and energy conservation. The design standards require the use of mulch and compost, limiting functional turf areas, and planting low water use, climate-appropriate plants irrigated by drip irrigation and weather based irrigation scheduling. Going beyond traditional landscape water conservation, Monterey Bay Friendly Landscapes are required to demonstrate the use of green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and permeable pavements, to manage rainwater in the landscape to promote groundwater recharge and reduce flooding and stormwater pollution downstream. All certified landscapes are required to implement a Monterey Bay Friendly ecological landscape maintenance contract, which ensures the landscape will be managed to prevent irrigation waste, use less chemicals, and reduce dependence on landscape equipment that use fossil fuels. More information is available at [www.green-gardener.org](http://www.green-gardener.org)

### **Sample Activities:**

1. Weekly, one-hour meetings with Ecology Action senior program specialist.
2. Coordinate with public agency and industry stakeholders to identify landscapes for public recognition.
3. Contact property owners and landscape contractors to offer ecological landscape certification and schedule field visits.
4. Visit properties and evaluate landscaping based on the MBF standards. Take photos, verify checklist items, and obtain measurements (square footage) of compliance.
5. Generate a report on each property visited. Provide resources to property owners to facilitate implementation of certification requirements.
6. If certifiable, upload site assessment information onto MBF website.
7. Post recognition signage at certified landscapes.
8. Write case-studies about certified landscapes for agency newsletters.
9. Suggest and make improvements to Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape incentive program and [www.green-gardener.org](http://www.green-gardener.org)

### **Timeframe:**

Minimum Commitment: 3 months

Estimated Total Hours: 5-10 hours/week



- Scheduling:**  
 At discretion of the volunteer       Needed:

**Worksite:** Landscapes in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.  
Office space, telephone, and computer available at Ecology Action main office, 877 Cedar St. Suite 240, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Qualifications Sought:**

1. Excellent personal communication, phone and e-mail presentation skills.
2. Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
3. Knowledge and experience with ecological landscaping design and maintenance practices.
4. Knowledge of irrigation management.

**Benefits:**

1. Become a qualified Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape program rater.
2. Learn irrigation system evaluation skills and how to assess a property for stormwater harvesting potential.
3. Network with community members and landscape industry professionals.
4. Learn website development in wordpress
5. Help create a new norm for ecological landscaping by providing public recognition and incentives for early adopters.
6. Have fun working outside on the Central Coast of California.

**For Further Information:**

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