



## FAQs

### City of Naples Certification of Lawn and Landscape Professionals

Pursuant to City of Naples Ordinance Sec. 52-186

#### **What is the City Landscape Certification?**

The City of Naples recognizes the important role water resources play in sustaining the economic, environmental and human health of our community. To that end, the City requires all lawn and landscape companies working within City Limits to have at least one supervisor plus 10% of field operations staff certified as knowledgeable of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection of water resources in Florida. At least one certified lawn and landscape maintenance professional must be present at each location where lawn or landscape maintenance is taking place.

The City has partnered with Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to provide educational training to local landscape businesses in order to meet certification requirements.

#### **What is the Landscape Certification Course all about?**

An educational course entitled, *Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida* was developed by Florida Green Industries, a group comprised of state agencies, universities, and private industry partners. This statewide program for landscape professionals focuses on BMPs relating to lawn fertilization, pesticide use, irrigation practices, and plant selection. Since all of these topics can have an effect on the surrounding environment, it is the City's goal that those who undergo the BMPs training implement the ideas and concepts they have learned in their daily business practices.

#### **What are the steps a landscape company must take to become City-certified?**

- 1) Contact the Rookery Bay Coastal Training Department at 239-417-6310 ext. 231 to sign up for a scheduled BMPs course. Course schedules can be found at <http://www.rookerybay.org/CTP-BMP.html>. The course lasts about 7 hours (lunch provided). The registration form and \$25 fee (per person) are due 5 work days prior to the class day (Visa, MasterCard or checks made payable to the Friends of Rookery Bay will be accepted). No registrations taken over the phone. No walk-ins allowed the day of class.
- 2) After attending the course and passing the test, the State will give each person a certificate of completion.
- 3) A supervisor or business owner needs to pick up an application for the City certification at the Natural Resources division located at 280 Riverside Circle, Naples, FL 34102, or he/she may download the application at [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com) or get it at the training.
- 4) A supervisor or business owner must deliver or mail the completed City application, copies of the BMPs state certificate for each employee, a list of all employees who have completed the course, and the initial application fee of \$175.00 per company plus payment for additional decals, if needed (Note: **All** state licensed company vehicles must display the City decals; the first two decals are free, and each additional decal is available for \$5.00. *Please make checks payable to The City of Naples*) to:

Natural Resources Division  
Attn: Monique Krist  
280 Riverside Circle  
Naples, FL 34102

- 5) If the application is deemed complete by city staff, decals indicating City certification will be sent to the business. These decals must be displayed on the left rear bumper of all state-licensed vehicles. If your vehicle does not have a bumper, place the decal in close proximity to the left rear of the vehicle, making sure the decal is visible. Employees who have completed and passed the BMPs course received a Florida Department of Environment Protection Green Industries BMPs wallet card recognizing them as responsible lawn and landscape professionals. Please note said employees must carry their wallet card while performing lawn and landscape services within the City's boundaries.
  
- 6) Renewal of City certification is required annually. The company must maintain at least one supervisor plus a minimum of 10% certified field operations staff. Those employees already certified must take a 3-hour refresher course; course records must be re-submitted to the City. The company must pay a \$50.00 annual fee.

**Can I obtain CEU's by taking the Best Management Practices course at Rookery Bay?**

Yes. Up to 5 CEU's can be obtained through course completion.

**Can lawn and landscape businesses not providing services within the City limits take this course?**

Absolutely! This course is open to any landscape professional wanting to gain valuable knowledge regarding their profession. Up to five CEUs are available.

**I have an odd number of employees, how many have to take the course to fulfill the City requirement of 10%?**

If your company has between 1 to 4 employees, you only need to send a supervisor, who works on-site, to take the BMPs course. All other companies, with 5 or more employees, must round up to the nearest whole number when calculating the number of employees required to take the BMPs course to satisfy the 10% requirement.

\*\*\*Please remember – ALL companies need to send at least one (1) supervisor to get BMP certified.

<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Number of Employees that need to take course (10%)</b>	<b>Total to take course</b>
1-4	0	1 supervisor
5-10	1	1 employee + 1 supervisor
11-20	2	2 employees + 1 supervisor
21-30	3	3 employees + 1 supervisor
31-40	4	4 employees + 1 supervisor
41-50	5	5 employees + 1 supervisor