

## **Introduction to the EcoLandscape™ Program**

February 2015

EcoLandscape California's mission is to *Provide Education and Advocacy for Environmentally-Responsible Landscapes*. To support and advance this mission and to maintain our commitment to the public, our sponsors, and members, EcoLandscape California (ELC) is proud to announce the EcoLandscape Program, a new program that embraces ELC's ongoing commitment to continuing education, professionalism, and standards of practice. By agreeing to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professionalism, EcoLandscape Program members, as well as the public and industry professionals, can be confident that the EcoLandscape Program members listed on the EcoLandscape Referral List share these values and practice current River-Friendly Landscaping principles and practices promoted by EcoLandscape California. Graduates of the Green Gardener Training Program will continue to be listed on the ELC website; however, after April 15, 2015, there will only be one business referral list -- the EcoLandscape Referral List.

Qualified Green Gardeners have the opportunity to become EcoLandscape Program members and to be included on the new EcoLandscape Referral List on the ELC website by taking the following actions:

- First, go to [www.ecolandscape.org](http://www.ecolandscape.org) and become a 2015 member at the "EcoLandscape level" by selecting the "Members" drop down in the menu at the top of the page, then select "Join".
- Next, select the "EcoLandscape Portal", under the EcoLandscape dropdown.  
Log in credentials: User name: ELRpro / Password: badges.
- Select the "Code of Ethics and Standards of Professionalism Document" link, print and sign the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Professionalism; follow directions for sending to ELC.
- Follow directions for providing copies of your current business license and other qualifications.
- Complete the EcoLandscape Information Form for the EcoLandscape Referral List. This will provide potential clients information about your company, services, and areas of specialty.

Green Gardeners have until April 15, 2015, to:

- Become a 2015 EcoLandscape Program Member of EcoLandscape California (although please consider joining now) and to sign and submit the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professionalism.
- Complete the EcoLandscape Information Form for the EcoLandscape Referral List.

- Submit current business license for your business or for your employer, along with proof of additional qualifications, certifications, etc. (Refer to instructions in the EcoLandscape Portal for submitting these documents.)

The deadline to fulfill all requirements to become an EcoLandscape is December 31, 2015. To do so, you must:

- Complete the additional requirements described on the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professionalism relative to Participation and Continuing Education Units (CEUs); complete the Active Participation Unit Report Form for submitting these units to ELC.
- If, however, you complete the 4 CEU minimum requirement by July 1, 2015, in at least two CEU topic areas for badges, your badges will be identified on the EcoLandscape Referral List.
- If you do not complete the 4 CEUs by July 1st, you still have until December 31, 2015, to report your CEUs and all of the 12 unit annual requirements; however, the CEU badges will not be displayed on the website until January 2016.
- In the future, membership renewal and updating of your information as an EcoLandscape will take place on an annual basis.

**Note:** To be included on the EcoLandscape Referral List, current Green Gardeners are required to become EcoLandscapers. If you do not want to become an EcoLandscape, you will only be listed on the website as a graduate of the Green Gardener Training Program, and can promote yourself as such, but you will not be listed on the business Referral List.

Please contact me if you have questions. Thank you for your commitment to the health and vitality of our landscapes, our communities, and our environment by becoming EcoLandscape Professionals.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Buckwalter

Executive Director

EcoLandscape California

cheryl@ecolandscape.org / 530-887-9887