Ocean Friendly Gardens Criteria

Conservation

Plants
___ Non-invasive and climate-appropriate, unless edible
___ Grouped by water need
___ At least 10% of the plants are natives

Turf Grass Areas
___ No turf grass, OR kept to a minimum AND
___ Climate-appropriate (rainfall keeps it healthy), maintained organically, and consider inter-seeding with nitrogen-fixing plants

Irrigation
___ Hand watering OR
___ High efficiency irrigation system (drip, rotator sprinkler)
___ Automatic irrigation controller, if present, has a rain shut-off device

Permeability

Healthy, Living Soil
___ A minimum of 2 to 4 inches of natural mulch
___ If fertilizing is needed, use of compost or worm castings and not commercial fertilizer
___ No use of pesticides, herbicides or fungicides
___ No landscape fabric (weed cloth)

Hardscape
___ Walkways and patios direct rainwater runoff to landscaping. They are made permeable by use of pavers or permeable materials OR by creating gaps and filling in with gravel or plants. For a next step, do the same for driveways.

Retention

Re-direct It
___ Rainwater from the roof is directed to landscaping or a permeable area OR
___ To rain tanks that overflow into permeable areas if that is not possible

Soak It Up
___ Use simple contours such as bio-swales, dry creeks, and basins
___ Use of dry wells or the like if rainfall volume and lack of landscape space demands it

OFG Map
___ OK to post the garden ______ Sq. Ft. roof area ______ Sq. Ft. garden area

For the list of additional best practices, go to surfrider.org/ofg