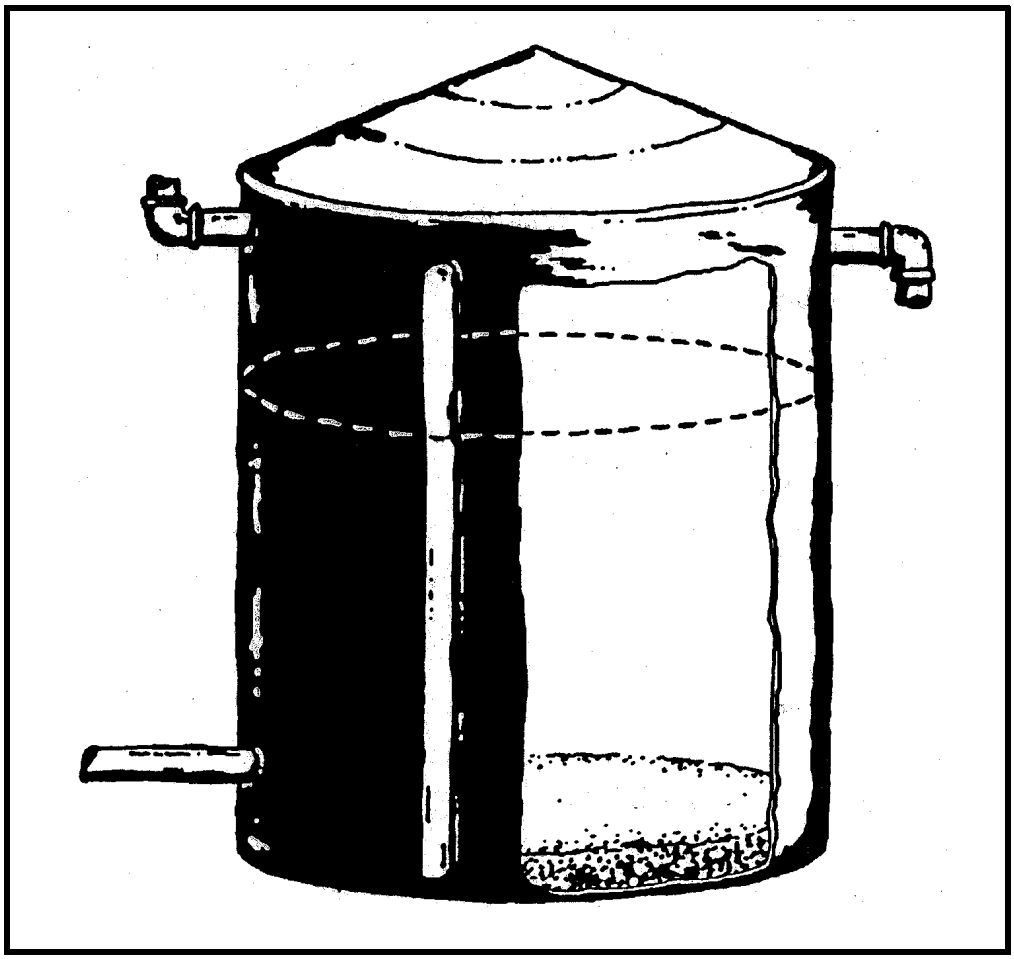
Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration

Incentive Program



Water Conservation Program
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

For More Information
Call 499-3514

PROGRAM GUIDELINES
RAINWATER HARVESTING
DEMONSTRATION INCENTIVE

General Purpose

The City of Austin Water Conservation Division is implementing an incentive program to encourage the use of rainwater as a supplement to municipal water for irrigation use.

Each proposal will be evaluated on its own merits on a first come, first served basis. Due to budget restraints, all requests may not be funded. You may request the booklet "Texas Guide to Rainwater Harvesting" from the Texas Water Development Board to calculate appropriate storage requirements. Copies of this publication are also available at the Water Conservation office, 625 East 10th Street, Suite 615. It is also available for viewing or downloading at www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon.

The application form includes a simplified method that will be used to calculate the optimum tank size for each site. The assumptions used in this model are based upon the desire to reduce peak-day water use during typical dry summer months. Alternative approved calculation methods may be used.

Tanks should be designed to provide a minimum estimated 20-year life span. Non-ultraviolet resistant tanks must be painted or enclosed. A system may also be constructed from salvaged 35-gallon (or larger) drums, if they are interconnected as an operational, 300 gallon minimum system. Galvanized tanks are not approved for this program, due to their short life span. Final inspection will be made by City staff before rebates are issued. Rebate checks will be issued in six to eight weeks after final inspection.

The applicant agrees to open the site to the public on at least two of four planned tour dates in the next 24 months. Rebate incentives are for a minimum of $45 up to a maximum of $500, based on 15¢ per gallon of storage capacity for a complete, operational system. You may use gravity or pumps for distribution. Proposed rainwater projects can not to be used for potable water systems nor can they be connected to the potable water supply system. All applicable building codes must be followed.

Application Procedure

For your project to be considered, please submit each of the following documents along with the attached official application form:

- **Drawing** - Sketch of the proposed system including all design calculations.
- **Site Plan** - Layout of buildings, streets, fences and gates.
- **Detailed Bid** - Price estimates of how you arrived at the total system cost or contractor bid(s).
- **Maintenance Plan** - Provide a detailed plan on how maintenance will be done, including scheduled bacteria control measures if spray irrigation is to be used.
- **Operation Guide** - Explain how your system will reduce dependence upon City water during peak-water-use days of mid-summer.
- **Agreement and Authorization** - The person applying for the rebate must sign the agreement authorizing the incentive request and agreeing to the project guidelines.

Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated on suitability, accessibility, aesthetics, design and potential water savings. You will be contacted after the proposed projects have been evaluated and ranked. Incentives will not be issued until project is finished according to the approved application packet.

Send your proposal to:

Dick Peterson—Water Conservation
City of Austin—PECSD
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Funds are limited, so earliest submitted, approved to start construction and completed projects have the best opportunity for incentives. For information, contact Dick Peterson, 499-3514. 2/3/2000

APPLICATION FORM
RAINWATER HARVESTING
DEMONSTRATION INCENTIVE

Name (as it appears on water bill) _____

Mailing address _____ Zip _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Location of proposed project _____

City of Austin Water Utility account number _____ or

Name of Water Supply Company _____

Construction start date _____ Estimated completion date _____

To determine the optimum tank capacity, we assume you can collect 80% of the average rainfall that typically falls during the months of June, July, August and September. This gives us an estimate of 5,000 gallons of water collected per 1,000 sq. ft. of collection area. Use the floor square footage under the roof directing water into your cistern.

Square footage of rainwater collection area _____ ÷ 1,000 X 5,000 = _____ gallons.

Second, assume that the typical St. Augustinegrass lawn requires 1 inch of water per week or about 560 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. using conventional spray irrigation. During the 16 week peak-water-use period, the landscape would require approximately 9,000 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft. with 5000 of that provided by average rainfall.*

Square footage of landscape to be watered _____ ÷ 1,000 X 4,000 = _____ gallons.

Optimum tank capacity, for the Demonstration Incentive Program, is the lesser of these two figures; however, alternative calculations may be submitted for consideration.

Dominant type of planting for the irrigated area (St. Augustinegrass, Buffalograss, or plants and shrubs, etc.)_____

_____

_____

Distribution method (gravity or pump to hoses, underground sprinkler system or drip irrigation, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

Total estimated project cost $_____. Amount to be provided by applicant $_____, by City $ ____

Use the back of this form for a brief summary (description, purpose and objective) of the proposed project.

*Less water may be required if alternative irrigation technology is used or if Xeriscape principles are employed. (2/3/2000)

PROJECT SUMMARY

(You may attach separate sheets)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Checklist: Application Must Include All The Following

❑ System Drawing ❑ Operation Guide ❑ Maintenance Plan ❑ Site Plan
❑ Agreement ❑ Summary ❑ Detailed Price Estimate

Agreement

The goal of the incentive program agreement is to provide demonstration sites that introduce the concept of on-site rainwater harvesting to Austin citizens. The undersigned participant understands and agrees that the system must remain operational for five years and if the system is not operational for the full five years, the City will be entitled to recover a prorated portion of the incentive. The participant agrees to record water collection and use amounts for each of the first five years and to submit the records to the City of Austin on forms provided. The applicant agrees to allow public access to the system on at least two of four available tour dates within the next 24 months. Only customers of the City Water Utility (or customers whose supplier receives 100% of its water from the Utility) are eligible.

The participant understands the City of Austin makes no claims as to the safety or reliability of installed equipment or resulting water. The participant agrees that the water is to be for non-potable uses only.

I agree to the terms of Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Residential/ Nonprofit/Commercial Incentive Program application and I am authorized to sign.

Signature* _____ Print name _____
(Same as on water bill) (Same as on water bill)

Title _____

for (company name)* _____ Date _____

*If applicant is a company or nonprofit, owner or authorized officer must sign.