



Water Use Efficiency Program

Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration System Project

Up to \$2,000 in funding and resources is available for community garden active rainwater harvesting systems. Funding can be for materials such as gutters, downspouts, tanks, pipe fittings, and base materials.

What is Rainwater Harvesting?

Rainwater can be collected from an impervious surface, such as a roof, or from a pervious surface, such as uncompacted soil. Once harvested, the water is routed to where it is beneficially used. Rainwater can be harvested passively (e.g. rain gardens) or actively (tanks) on a residential or commercial scale.

Active rainwater harvesting systems use equipment to collect, filter, store and deliver harvested water. They utilize a catchment surface (e.g. roof and downspouts) to direct rainwater into collection systems that can range from 55-gallon rain barrels to 1,500-gallon tanks for outdoor watering. Unless water is delivered via gravity flow or by hand-watering, active systems require a pump to deliver water. This project will fund active rainwater systems.

What are the benefits of installing a rainwater system?

Benefits specific to the garden could be:

- Source of water on-site and/or reduction in existing source of water on-site
- Free or reduced costs associated with water use

Using rain barrels and/or tanks to collect water from a roof for outdoor use saves money on metered water bills, conserves drinking water and reduces stormwater runoff.

Who can apply for funding?

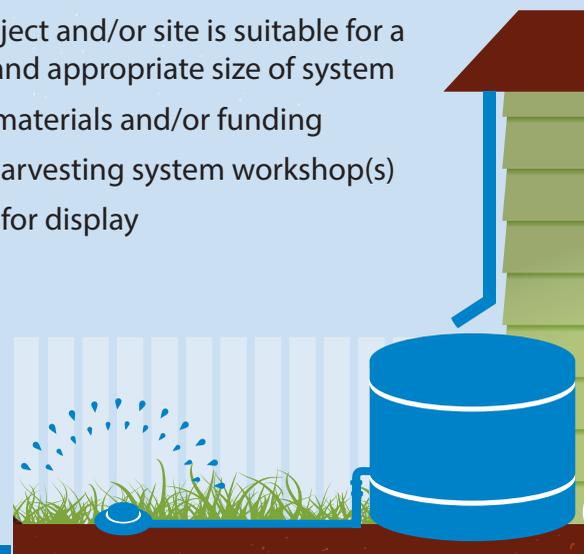
Non-profit organizations, community groups, schools, and neighborhood associations are all eligible to apply. The community garden must be in existence or development and used to provide a service to the public and/or a community group. Gardens must be active and maintained.

What you do:

- Fill out application, answer questions, prepare proposal
- If awarded demonstration project, sign agreement with City of Bellingham and abide by terms of agreement
- Provide matching funds and/or volunteer labor hours towards site preparation (e.g. gravel base for tank, gutters and/or shed construction if needed) for rainwater system
- Use and maintain rainwater harvesting system
- Submit an annual report

What we do:

- Review application and project materials requested
- Determine if project and/or site is suitable for a rainwater system, and appropriate size of system
- Provide project materials and/or funding
- Host rainwater harvesting system workshop(s)
- Provide signage for display



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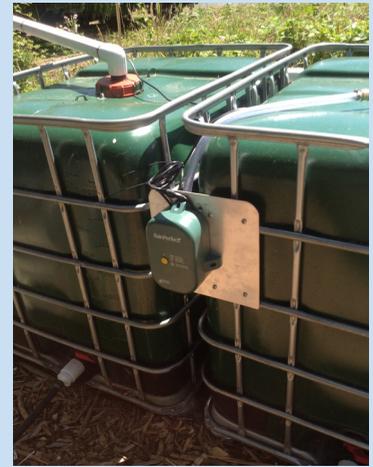
Example Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Systems

These are existing City-sponsored demonstration systems open to the public for visiting.



Bobbibrook Farm is run by Common Threads Farm, a non-profit organization that provides after school and summer camp programs for kids at various urban farm locations. Bobbibrook Farm's rainwater harvesting system provides storage for up to 550-gallons of rainwater and uses solar power as well as kid-power on a bicycle to pump water from the tanks to irrigate the vegetables grown at the site. Contact Laura to schedule a visit.

laura@commonthreadsfarm.org



The RE Patch Community Garden was formed in 2011 to create a neighborhood center for learning how to grow food organically. Nestled behind The RE Store, the RE Patch provides raised veggie beds, edible perennial beds, a mushroom-inoculated forest garden, and on-site composting. The garden features two types of rainwater harvesting systems. One system holds 825-gallons and resides next to the raised vegetable beds. Hand-watering is utilized for this area. The other system holds 500-gallons, and sits atop two engineered tank bases for gravity-fed watering with a drip irrigation system and a zero-pressure timer. RE Sources and the City co-hosted a workshop series to educate the public on the permitting and installation process for elevated tanks. Located at the RE Store at 2309 Meridian Street. The systems are on the Monroe and Kulshan Street sides of the building.

hannahc@re-sources.org



York Farm was created to be a source for local food security: growing fruits and vegetables in the York neighborhood for the benefit of every household in the community. York Farm at the same time provides resume-building work experience for the re-entry, veteran, and homeless communities through the design, construction, and care of an organic urban farm via a Farm Internship Program. The farm leases the property from the Washington State Department of Transportation and does not have City water service. The farm has storage capacity for up to 2,700-gallons of rainwater from three different collection systems on the site. The farm captures every drop that falls onto the shed roofs year-round for irrigation. Systems are located on the 1400 block of James Street in the York Neighborhood.

maryloq@q.com



For questions or more information, call 360-778-7700



Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration System Application

Property must be located within city limits, property owner must provide approval of system installation, sign an agreement if selected for demonstration project, and meet applicable city requirements. Application submittals are accepted in the in the spring and fall; go to www.cob.org and search "rainwater demo system" for deadlines.

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|--|--|---|--|
| Applicant/Contact Name: | | Garden Name: | |
| Property address: | | Circle one: Existing garden or Garden in development | |
| Mailing address (if different): | | | |
| Daytime phone number and/or email address: | | | |

Answer the questions below in a proposal, including the topics on the back side of this application.

1. What is the goal of having a rainwater harvesting system at your site? (e.g. reduce water use on-site; education to garden users/beneficiaries; etc.)
2. Approximately how many people will use and/or be exposed to the rainwater harvesting system?
3. How will you ensure the rainwater system will be maintained?
4. Who are your garden partners? What is your garden budget?



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Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration System Application

Address the items below in a separate proposal document along with application questions, pictures and/or a map.

Description of garden

- Background plan and/or mission statement/purpose of garden
- How long garden has been in existence
- Property owner and terms the garden resides on
- Number of plots, fees for plots, if any
- Specific purposes of plots, if any
- Garden stakeholders, board, and/or team

Who manages or oversees the garden?

Number of people and/or families served by garden?

- Who is eligible to have a plot in the garden
- How are eligible applicants selected
- Provide garden use and maintenance rules

Water source for garden irrigation, who pays water bill?

- Sole water source or multiple
- Who is responsible for paying the water bill
- Are plot tenants/owners charged for water in their fees

Collection surface for rainwater harvesting if garden is selected?

- Roof composition
- Size, roof square footage
- Presence of gutters, ground surface material

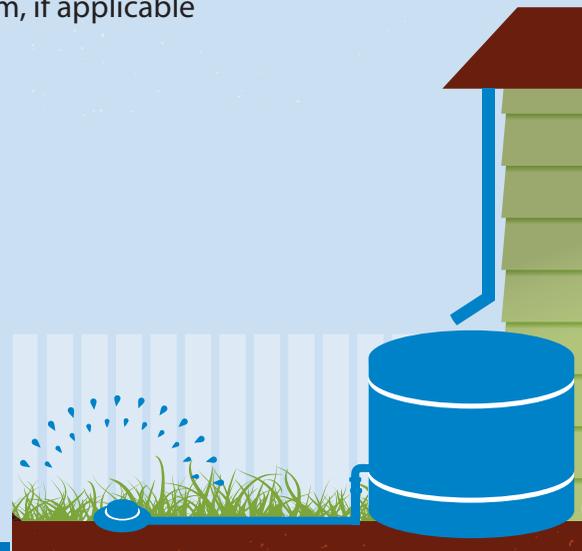
Education and outreach for garden?

- How will you promote rainwater harvesting at your garden
- How/if you will integrate rainwater harvesting in curriculum, if applicable

Mail or drop-off application materials to:

City of Bellingham, Public Works Operations
 Attn: WUE Program
 2221 Pacific Street
 Bellingham, WA 98229

Or email:
waterconservation@cob.org



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