

Dear RainWise Contractors,

Spring is almost here! You are likely gearing up for your busiest seasons. We hope your plans include numerous RainWise projects. We are holding multiple "Meet-a-RainWise Contractor" fairs in March and April. Your attendance is essential to make these fairs a success, and they are a great way to meet new customers. Please join us!

Seattle Public Utilities and King County greatly appreciate the work you are doing to help us reduce sewer overflows and keep pollutants out of our waterways. Thank you!

Best regards,



Laura Cacho, Program Manager

## Creating RainWise Clusters

Creating clusters of RainWise projects (multiple projects on a block) may be a great business opportunity for you. The neighbors hire one contractor to complete the projects. This provides more work for you, manages a large volume of stormwater, and builds community -- all at the same time!

One of the best ways to start a cluster project is to identify neighborhood leaders (e.g. block watch captain, social coordinator, real estate agents) living on the block. Ask this leader to help choose a strategy to bring neighbors together to learn about RainWise, e.g. hosting a living room gathering; inviting neighbors to a RainWise event; or attending a neighborhood meeting.

Waiving your consultation fee if 3+ homes participate can be a great incentive for the block. Doing a walk through of multiple homes at once can help you learn what is possible on the block and how the neighbors want to work together.

If you would like talk more about building clusters of RainWise projects, contact Sonja Sivesind at 206-678-2604 or [Sonja@urbansystemsdesign.com](mailto:Sonja@urbansystemsdesign.com).

## The Tax Status of the RainWise Rebate

Tax Day is coming up soon. RainWise rebates may be considered income under federal tax law; the average RainWise rebate exceeds the IRS ceiling of \$600 nontaxable benefit. The Federal government requires RainWise rebate applicants to complete and sign IRS Form "W-9". Seattle Public Utilities and King County cannot issue a rebate without this form completed by the customer.

If a customer received a RainWise rebate check in 2016, they recently received a 1099 form from SPU or King County. If they used the Vendor Payment Option (VPO), they did not receive a 1099 form as the contractor received the rebate check. However, as they received the benefit of the rain garden and/or cistern on their property, they should discuss their tax reporting requirements with their tax advisor.



## ASK AN INSPECTOR

**Q** I recently installed multiple cisterns for a customer and some of the gutter downspouts are no longer in use. The customer doesn't want me to remove the downspouts. Do I have to take them out?

**A** Yes. If you are by-passing downspouts to collect more of the roof into a cistern or rain garden, the downspout no longer in use needs to be removed, and the open joint between the gutter and removed downspout needs to be sealed. This is the best way for a RainWise inspector to be certain the water within the gutter is traveling to the RainWise installation and that the rebate calculation is based on the correct roof area.

Occasionally a customer may not like an aspect of our design standards. However, if they would like to receive the RainWise rebate, the standards must be followed.

## Contact Us

- For general questions about the program: [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov)
- To schedule a pre- or post-inspection: [inspectionrequest@seattle.gov](mailto:inspectionrequest@seattle.gov) or call 206-684-0100
- For questions about an installation or a specific property, please contact your Seattle Public Utilities or King County RainWise inspector.

## Want to Meet New Customers?

We hold multiple events each month to share the RainWise program with eligible residents. Please attend these events to meet new customers and grow your business!

To sign-up, contact the organizer or visit:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4daaaf2fa5fc1-rainwise>

Be sure to also look for additional events in the Marketing Summary report sent out each month by email.

### Mar 6, 7pm - 8:30pm: RainWise Information Session

**Lakewood Seward Park Community Club** 4916 S Angeline St, Seattle, WA 98118

Organizer: Jackie Marshall, [jackie.marshall@seattle.gov](mailto:jackie.marshall@seattle.gov)

### Mar 11, 11am – 3pm: Meet-A-RainWise Contractor Fair

**Concord Elementary Parking Lot** 1723 S Concord St, Seattle, WA 98118

Organizer: Frances Kuo, [frances@ecoss.org](mailto:frances@ecoss.org)

### Mar 18, 11:30am - 3:30pm: Meet-A-RainWise Contractor Fair

**Rainier Beach Community Center** 8825 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

Organizer: Jackie Marshall, [jackie.marshall@seattle.gov](mailto:jackie.marshall@seattle.gov)

### Mar 22, 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise Information Session

**Columbia City Library** 4721 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

Organizer: Jackie Marshall, [jackie.marshall@seattle.gov](mailto:jackie.marshall@seattle.gov)

### Apr 8 at 11am - 3pm: Meet-A-RainWise Contractor Fair

**City People's Garden Store** 2939 E Madison St, Seattle, WA 98112

Organizer: Elaine Xie, [elaine@urbansystemsdesign.com](mailto:elaine@urbansystemsdesign.com)



## RainWise Videos Help Explain Maintenance Steps

Did you know RainWise has cistern care videos in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese? These 3 to 5 minute videos are a great way to show a customer the steps to maintain their cistern. They are easy to display on your smart phone and help to reduce customer concerns about their maintenance commitment.

The videos are available on our website: <http://www.700milliongallons.org/rainwise/maintenance/>

Rain garden weeding and mulching videos are coming soon!

If you no longer want to be part of the RainWise Program, please email [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov).

## RainWise Focus Areas for 2017

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) recently analyzed how well we are managing combined sewer overflows and where RainWise can make the most difference in solving this problem. This analysis is informing where our outreach team will be focusing their efforts in 2017:

- The **Leschi basin** (the area from Mount Baker north along Lake Washington) is a new area of focus for SPU this year. We plan to start holding events in this part of Seattle in late spring and early summer.
- The **Genesee and Henderson** basins (areas near Columbia City, Seward Park, and Rainier Beach) will continue to be targets in 2017.
- SPU will be concentrating efforts in north neighborhoods primarily in the **Windermere** basin. In particular, RainWise projects in the north-east section of this basin (north of Sand Point Way NE and just west of Magnuson Park) are likely to have the greatest impact on the reducing combined sewer overflows.



King County will continue to focus on all of their eligible basins: **University/Green Lake, Montlake/Capitol Hill/Central, South Park, and Highland Park.**

RainWise projects in all eligible areas help keep our waterways clean, but if you want to make a bigger difference, please help us by targeting your work in these areas too.

## Do you know someone who wants to be a RainWise contractor?

The next RainWise contractor training is March 22nd, 23rd, and 25th! As always, contractors must attend all three sessions. You are welcome to send one or two staff from your business for additional training, and you can take the training again if you need a refresher!

**Sign-up: <http://rainwisespringtraining.brownpapertickets.com/>**