

Dear RainWise Contractors,

Change is in the air for RainWise! As you heard in early April, the rebate has increased to \$4 per square foot for rain gardens and a corresponding proportional increase for cistern projects. We hope this rebate increase enables you to complete more projects entirely within the rebate amount and results in more projects.

I am also sad to report that this will be my last contractor newsletter. I am leaving my role as RainWise Program Manager as of May 3rd to take a new position at Seattle Public Utilities. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and appreciate the work you do to make this a great program! The former RainWise Program Manager, Bob Spencer, will be filling in until a replacement is found and is up to speed. Bob can be reached at **Bob.Spencer@seattle.gov**.

Best regards,



Laura Cacho, Program Manager

Cistern Supply Challenges

As you are all aware, there are significant delays with Bushman cistern orders. We are reaching out to several other cistern suppliers and manufacturers. You are welcome to and encouraged to do your own exploration of alternatives as long as they meet RainWise standards.

We do not expect this problem to be resolved quickly. In the meantime, you may benefit from concentrating your efforts on rain garden projects. To help, we have created maps of each basin that show eligible rain garden properties: http://www.700milliongallons.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/RWEligibiliy_11x17.pdf.

Our outreach team will do their best to help manage customer expectations about the timing and speed of cistern project completion.



Rebate Calculator Update

When we announced the rebate increase, we also provided an updated rebate calculator. This calculator now includes rain garden sizing. Enter the contributing roof area and the infiltration rate, and the calculator will determine the rain garden bottom area required.

Please note that the rain garden sizing calculation has changed in order for RainWise to match stormwater code requirements. New facility sizes are very similar to the old facility sizes in most cases. However, facilities are now larger for infiltration rates of 1 inch per hour.

Please also note that for cistern to rain garden scenarios, the calculator only offers the option of one or two 205-cisterns. If you are not using 205 cisterns, ignore the size of cistern and select the option based on whether you are using one or two cisterns. We will change the cistern size reference in the next rebate calculator update.

ASK AN INSPECTOR

Q Why can I only use 12 inches of flexible hose and why can I only use it where the low flow connects to the overflow pipe?

A When RainWise first began, some contractors were using garden hoses for cistern connections. The garden hoses drooped and did not perform as desired; sags in pipes (flexible or rigid) are prone to collect sediment and become blocked.

In response, RainWise created the rule that no more than 12" of flexible pipe can be used and that flexible pipe can only be used where the low flow connects to the overflow pipe. Twelve inches was chosen because it is sufficient length to resolve plumbing with difficult bends while also avoiding sags.

Rigid piping is the best plumbing material. The use of flexible piping should be reserved for tight connections where conventional 22- and 45-degree fittings are not feasible.

Contact Us

- For general questions about the program: rainwise@seattle.gov
- To schedule a pre- or post-inspection: 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.



Welcome New RainWise Contractors!

RainWise held a contractor training in late March and is excited to welcome four new contractors into the program.

Please remember that contractors need to complete at least one RainWise project per year or their business will be removed from our website and rosters. You are always welcome to attend the training again. The next training will be held in the fall (likely early November).

If you have any questions about how to get started with RainWise or about scheduling inspections, email rainwise@seattle.gov.

If you no longer want to be part of the RainWise Program, please email rainwise@seattle.gov.

May 4, 6pm - 9pm: MBCC Family Movie Night

Mount Baker Community Club 2811 Mt Rainier Dr S, Seattle, WA 98144

Organizer: Natasha Walker, natasha.walker@seattle.gov

May 6, 9am – 3pm: Tilth Alliance Edible Plant Sale

Seattle Tilth 4850 Meridian Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103

Organizer: Sustainable Ballard, jenny@sustainableballard.org

May 9, 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise Information Session

Green Lake Library 7364 E Green Lake Dr N, Seattle, WA 98115

Organizer: Sustainable Ballard, jenny@sustainableballard.org

May 15, 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise Information Session

Northeast Seattle Library 6801 35th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Organizer: Sustainable Ballard, jenny@sustainableballard.org

June 13 at 7pm - 8:30pm: RainWise Information Session

Central Area Senior Center 500 30th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

Organizer: Natasha Walker, natasha.walker@seattle.gov

RainWise 2017: First Quarter Report

Due to the cold, rainy weather, it is no surprise that it has been a slow start to 2017. Thanks to your hard work, we have completed 43 projects so far this year. Of these 43 projects, only 10 have included rain gardens. This is perhaps not surprising given the unusually cold weather the past few months, but we hope to see more rain garden projects this year given the challenges with cistern delays.

Our most productive basins to date are in North Seattle with fifteen projects in Green Lake/University, followed by six projects in Ballard. Genesee is leading our South basins with five completed projects.

In total, RainWise now has 1,242 completed projects. These projects are capturing over 1.5 million sq ft of roof area and are managing nearly 19 MG of stormwater.

We are excited to see a number of large roof projects underway this year. We would also love to see more cluster installations. If you have questions about how to get involved in large roof projects or how to get neighbors together to create a cluster project, please contact Sonja at sonja@urbansystemsdesign.com.

For Seattle Public Utilities, North Union Bay, Leschi, Genesee, and Henderson are priority basins this year. We will be evaluating our success in these basins in 2017 and our contractor capacity to determine if we can expand RainWise to our creek basins.



Join us for a Contractors' Discussion

Tuesday, May 11, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Friends of Georgetown History space, 6206 Carleton Ave S, Seattle 98108

Experienced RainWise Contractors will be present to share information and answer questions from newer RainWise contractors.

Contact Sonja at sonja@urbansystemsdesign.com to RSVP.