

Dear RainWise Contractors,

Welcome to the May edition of our RainWise Contractor Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with important program updates and event announcements.

Included in this newsletter are new policies regarding the RainWise rebate when a home is for sale, a summary of installation accomplishments for the first quarter of 2016, and further information on upcoming basin changes. Please also find enclosed a copy of our maintenance guide to share with customers. Maintenance education is an important final step when you finish a RainWise project.

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

## Home Sales and the RainWise Program

Home sales tend to increase in the spring and summer months. You may encounter a customer who wants to install a RainWise project but knows he or she will be putting the home up for sale. While RainWise may seem like a great opportunity for a homeowner to improve his or her yard before a sale, this is not the intent of the program. We require the homeowner to sign an agreement to maintain their RainWise installation for at least five years; putting in an installation with full knowledge he or she will not be around for five years violates this agreement. With this in mind, we have the following policies regarding new RainWise installations and home sales:

- If you know a home is for sale, please inform the property owner that RainWise will not allow the project to proceed until the new homeowner is on board and willing to sign the Homeowner Agreement. If an inspector sees a for sale sign on the property, they will not proceed with the inspection.
- If a home is sold before the RainWise rebate paperwork is submitted and the rebate issued, RainWise will not issue the rebate check.

## RainWise First Quarter Review

We just wrapped up the first quarter of 2016. Blame it on the wettest winter on record, but it has been a slow year so far! Forty-two installations have been completed. About 50 percent have been cistern-only projects, 38 percent have been rain gardens, and 12 percent have included both rain gardens and cisterns. Our north neighborhoods have been most active, with 40% of projects in Greenlake (17 installations) followed by North Union Bay with 6 installations. We hope to see much higher numbers in our second quarter!

## ASK AN INSPECTOR



I have an opportunity to install cisterns on a 6,000 sq. ft. roof. How do I determine the rebate amount? Are there unique specifications for this size installation?



As the cistern rebate calculator does not allow inputs over 4,200 sq ft., RainWise will model individual projects to determine the rebate over this size. If you are able to break the roof up and capture sections of less than 4,200 sq. ft., this is best. If this is not possible, please contact Laura Cacho at [laura.cacho@seattle.gov](mailto:laura.cacho@seattle.gov).

Large projects may also have requirements that differ from typical RainWise projects, such as different piping sizes or overflow requirements. If you are pursuing a project over 4,200 sq. ft., please contact Laura or John Phillips to discuss the unique steps of this work.

Finally, customers with roofs over 5,000 sq. ft. are required to sign a 10-year agreement with the City or County.

## 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. You are welcome to attend these events to meet new customers and grow your business!

To sign-up, contact organizer or visit:

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

### May 11 at 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise 101 Workshop

**Seattle Public Library - Northeast Branch** 6801 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Organizer: Sustainable Ballard, 206-745-2592, [rain@sustainableballard.org](mailto:rain@sustainableballard.org)

### May 14 at 10am - 1pm: Barton RainWise Info Event

**Brace Point Pottery** 4208 SW 100th Street, Seattle, WA 98146

Organizer: Sonja, 206-678-2604, [sonja@urbansystemsdesign.com](mailto:sonja@urbansystemsdesign.com)

### June 7 at 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise 101 Workshop

**Seattle Public Library - Montlake Branch** 2401 24th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

Organizer: Susan Harper, 206-386-9139, [susan.harper@seattle.gov](mailto:susan.harper@seattle.gov)

### June 15 at 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise 101 Workshop

**Seattle Public Library - Northeast Branch** 6801 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Organizer: Sustainable Ballard, 206-745-2592, [rain@sustainableballard.org](mailto:rain@sustainableballard.org)

### June 23 at 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise 101 Workshop

**Loyal Heights Community Center, Rm #2** 2101 NW 77th St, Seattle, WA 98117

Organizer: Sustainable Ballard, 206-745-2592, [rain@sustainableballard.org](mailto:rain@sustainableballard.org)



## New, Improved Maintenance Guide For Customers

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of our updated RainWise Maintenance Guide. This update includes step-by-step instructions and photos on cistern maintenance.

Please share this guide with your customers after you finish an installation. King County and SPU have been hearing about multiple installations failing due to lack of maintenance. Ensuring installations are easily maintained and taking time to explain maintenance steps are important to make sure your projects last and look good for many years.

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

## Last Chance for Barton but New Basin Opens in June!

With King County's Barton Combined Sewer Overflow Control project and roadside rain gardens now complete, rebates will end in the Barton/Fauntleroy basin as of December 31, 2016. If you have potential customers in this area, please urge them to get the process started right away!

RainWise rebates in the Barton/Fauntleroy basin must meet this timeline:

- 7/1/16** Contractors must schedule a pre-inspection (the pre-inspection can take place after 7/1 but it MUST be scheduled by this date).
- 7/2/16** Basin is closed to new customers.
- 8/30/16** Pre-inspections must be complete.
- 10/15/16** Construction must be underway.
- 12/15/16** Post-inspections must be complete. Please schedule well ahead of this deadline.
- 12/30/16** Rebate packages must be complete and submitted.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Phillips at [john.phillips@kingcounty.gov](mailto:john.phillips@kingcounty.gov) or call 206-477-5489.

Approximately 6,000 properties south of the Montlake Bridge will become eligible for RainWise rebates on June 1, 2016. This includes the Montlake, Capitol Hill and Central neighborhoods. The eligibility map on [www.700milliongallons.org](http://www.700milliongallons.org) will be updated with the new area soon.

### Are you booked until late summer/fall and unable to take on new customers? Let us know! Email [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov).

Unreturned calls are the biggest source of frustration among our customers. Each call you don't return is a potential lost customer for the program. If you aren't returning calls and don't plan to for many months, ask us to remove your business from our roster until you have capacity.