



Seattle  
Public  
Utilities



King County

# Be RainWise

Manage your rain water at home

## RainWise Updates

It's hard to believe it has already been eight months since I took over for Tom Gannon as the (interim) RainWise Program Manager. During that time, I have spoken with many of you individually, but this is my first newsletter. Buckle up – there are lots of important updates contained in this issue!

The RainWise team has been working hard in 2022 to close the loop on some long overdue process improvements. These include simplifying the rebate calculator, improving cistern purchasing options, clarifying side sewer permit requirements, and providing a much-needed update to the RainWise Program Design Details. You can read more about these updates on the next page of the newsletter.

We have also been taking a closer look at the program to better understand the impact that the pandemic, supply chain issues, and increasing inflation have had on program participation. We are working to address these challenges so we can continue to offer a program that is economically viable for our valued contractors, while remaining a cost-effective way to meet our city's stormwater management goals.

RainWise contractors are the heart of the RainWise program. While you may not be the first person our customers speak with, your relationship with RainWise customers is often the most important connection made in the path to becoming RainWise. We thank you for your continued support of the program, and as always, welcome your feedback and questions.

*Natasha Bailey*

## Upcoming RainWise Contractor Orientation

*Do you know someone who might be interested in learning how to become a RainWise contractor?*

Encourage them to attend our FREE 3-day hybrid orientation for contractors and landscape professionals to learn the requirements to install cisterns and/or rain gardens on private property in specific Seattle neighborhoods through RainWise, a City of Seattle and King County rebate program. This orientation is a required prerequisite for all who wish to perform rebate-eligible RainWise installations.

**September 12th & 13th | 6-8pm** via Zoom webinar

**September 17<sup>th</sup> | 10am-12pm** In-Person site tour (Location TBD)



**To learn more or to register, please visit:**

<https://bit.ly/ContractorOrientation>

## Contact Us

Always feel free to contact RainWise at [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov) or contact me directly at [natasha.bailey@seattle.gov](mailto:natasha.bailey@seattle.gov) or at (206) 586-2297.

## Updated Rebate Calculator

In July, RainWise announced the release of an updated rebate calculator. The updated calculator builds in additional cistern models from Premier Plastics and Cypress Design, a response to feedback from both contractors and inspectors who have struggled with the “User Defined” cistern option in the existing 2019 rebate calculator.

**Starting immediately, all RainWise projects should use this new rebate calculator.** Inspectors will ask you to resubmit your rebate calculator if they find you are still using an older version and any incoming rebate packets containing older calculators will be re-run by our rebate processor using the 2022 calculator. For more information on the updates, please see our email from July 27, 2022. You can download the updated calculator here: <https://700milliongallons.org/rainwise/contractor-resources/>

## Cistern Purchasing Program / Cypress Design Tanks

RainWise contractors now have access to a new cistern option, available through the RainWise cistern purchasing program partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Conservation Corps (SCC). The tanks, manufactured by Cypress Designs out of Bellingham, Washington, were recently modified based on feedback received from RainWise contractors at an event we hosted at the SCC warehouse in March 2022. For more information on these tanks, including pricing and tank specification sheets, please see our email from July 27, 2022, or email [natasha.bailey@seattle.gov](mailto:natasha.bailey@seattle.gov) or call (206) 586-2297.

If you need a reminder of what purchasing a cistern through the SCC looks like, please visit: <https://700milliongallons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/RainWise-Cistern-Invoice-Process-Final.pdf>

## City of Seattle Side Sewer Permits

A reminder to our contractors about the existing City of Seattle side sewer permit requirement. **As detailed in our email on July 29, 2022, a side sewer permit may be required when RainWise contractors are working on a side sewer.** This permit is obtained from the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SDCI) and the RainWise Program puts the sole responsibility on the RainWise contractor to abide and comply with all side sewer permit requirements. For questions regarding permit compliance, please contact [sidesewerinfo@seattle.gov](mailto:sidesewerinfo@seattle.gov) or call (206) 684-5362.

For information on how to apply and permit fees, visit: [https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-\(a-z\)/side-sewer-permit](https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-(a-z)/side-sewer-permit)

## Design Details

A heads up that we will be releasing updated RainWise Program Design Specifications (sometimes called Design Details) in September. **This is the first major update to the design details since 2014.** We'll be rolling out the updated version to all RainWise inspectors first, and then to RainWise contractors. While there are no drastic changes, there are some important clarifications and engineering best practices that have been updated, particularly for cisterns, as we have learned more about these systems over time. The new details will also incorporate updates to various code requirements and links. Keep an eye out for a webinar invitation to learn more about the updates!

Want to Meet New Customers? Sign up at [tinyurl.com/RWcontractor](https://tinyurl.com/RWcontractor)

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