

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Rain Barrel Program

A component of the District's Green Infrastructure Program

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Rain Barrels are a form of green infrastructure that are designed to capture and reuse rain water. The largest benefit of rain barrel use is achieved by disconnecting the roof runoff from the system and installing rain barrels to reuse water. Roofs comprise 41% of the impervious surface in Cook County. Many of these surfaces are directly connected to the public drainage system.

The goal of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (District's) Rain Barrel Program is removing the direct load from entering the sewer system, reducing basement backups, and reducing combined sewer overflow volume, overland flooding, and infiltration and inflow. The District believes the value of keeping water out of the system will benefit the community.

The District's Rain Barrel Program will utilize three distribution networks throughout its service-delivery area to distribute and promote the use of rain barrels. These networks are described in Section II. Each rain barrel distributed will display a specially-designed label that summarizes the environmental benefits of using rain barrels (see Attachment A).

II. DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS

The three networks that will be utilized to distribute rain barrels are: municipalities, community groups/non-governmental organizations and campus- type facilities.

A. Municipalities

Cook County has 129 communities within the District's service area. Each community will be encouraged to adopt the Rain Barrel Program as its own. This program is contingent on funding approval by the Board of Commissioners on an annual basis. Until otherwise indicated, the Program will provide free rain barrels to residents who live in the District's service area.

Municipalities are required to enroll in this free program via an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Once an IGA is signed, municipalities may order rain barrels, connection hardware, and delivery for their residents from the District's vendor at no cost to the municipality. The District will cover the cost of the rain barrels, the connection hardware and home delivery as the District has a contract with a vendor in place; the vendor will furnish and deliver rain barrels, and municipal partners will be

provided with an email address and telephone number that can be used to order the rain barrels for delivery to residents. Distribution will be limited to a maximum of four rain barrels per home.

The District will provide the following templates for municipalities to use:

- **Sample letter and rain barrel reservation form** – The letter and form can be adapted and mailed to residents; the form is designed to collect the information needed to place an order on the resident’s behalf.
- **Sample brochure that can incorporate your logo** – Upon request, the District will provide municipalities with a supply of brochures imprinted with their municipal logo.
- **Generic press release** – The language in this generic press release can be used in newsletters, on websites or submitted to local publications.

B. Community Groups/Non-Governmental Organizations

Cook County has many community groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work to educate residents about stormwater management, green infrastructure and environmental improvement. Community groups and NGOs will have access to the District's rain barrel program. To enroll in this free program, they will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Once the MOU is signed, the community group/NGO may order rain barrels, connection hardware, and delivery for their constituents from the District at no cost to the community group/NGO.

In order to participate, the community group or NGO must:

- Submit a plan to the District describing the utilization of rain barrels;
- Provide detailed ordering information to the District ;
- Periodically ensure proper installation of rain barrels;
- Ensure proper education, care and maintenance of the rain barrels;
- Provide a follow-up report on rain barrel distribution. The report should include the following information:
 - email addresses of constituents receiving the rain barrel(s)
 - street addresses where rain barrels were installed
 - number of rain barrels installed, with a maximum of four rain barrels per home or location
 - a brief report of project successes and/or lessons learned in implementing the project.

C. Campus-Type Facilities

Campus-type facilities include: schools, municipal properties (i.e. town halls, libraries, park district facilities, fire and police stations, garage/outbuilding), churches,

community centers, senior centers, hospitals and clinics. The District will provide free rain barrels to any such facility committed to be a community partner and good steward of stormwater. The facility representative should contact the District regarding execution of a template IGA or MOU and to complete an appropriate application which shall include at a minimum:

- Size of campus
- Number of rain barrels requested
- Percent of downspouts intercepted
- Any other additional stormwater controls implemented on the site

After the rain barrels have been delivered and installed, the facility representative should submit a post-implementation plan or "As-Built" document that provides at minimum:

- addresses and locations where rain barrels were installed
- number of rain barrels installed
- a brief report of project successes and/or lessons learned in implementing the project.

III. MARKETING AND PROMOTION

In addition to providing technical assistance to residents, municipalities, community groups/non-governmental organizations and campus-type facilities on the proper use of rain barrels, a combination of tools will be provided by the District's Office of Public Affairs to promote and market rain barrels to the distribution networks. The tools include the District website, community outreach, public service announcements, email campaigns, press releases, promotion on social media, a rain barrel installation video and distribution of brochures.

Templates for applying for free rain barrels will be provided. In addition, the District can provide materials that utilize logos from the municipalities, community groups/non-governmental organizations and campus-type facilities for program purposes. The District will assign a District liaison to interested municipalities, community groups/non-governmental organizations and campus-type facilities. The liaison can provide assistance and direction during program implementation.

District Commissioners will also play a role in the marketing and promotion of the Rain Barrel Program. Commissioners may use and distribute rain barrels at community events as a means of educating and informing the public about the importance of green infrastructure, promoting the District's Rain Barrel Program, and instructing on proper installation. Upon request of each rain barrel for such events, Commissioners will provide the date, location, and purpose of the event for which the rain barrel(s) is/are being used, acknowledging by signature that the use and distribution is in compliance with the District's Ethics Ordinance policy on political activity.

IV. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

The District's Maintenance and Operations Department will continue to administer the Rain Barrel Program in cooperation with Engineering and Public Affairs. An assigned resident engineer will administer the rain barrel contract, coordinate deliveries, and document distribution for reporting purposes. The resident engineer will collect the addresses and number of rain barrels delivered and installed. The Office of Public Affairs will document marketing, community outreach and technical assistance and submit this information to the resident engineer for inclusion in an annual report.

V. LABEL

A label will be affixed to every rain barrel distributed (see Attachment A). The label summarizes the environmental benefits of using rain barrels and green infrastructure.

VI. FORMS

Draft forms pertaining to this program are attached and will be modified to include information pertaining to the specific participating municipality, community group/non-governmental organization or campus-type facility:

1. Municipal and Community Group/NGO Ordering Instructions - Attachment B
2. Resident Application Form – Attachment C

Attachment A

SAVE WATER PREVENT FLOODING IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

55 GALLON
FROST-PROOF
RECYCLED

Rain Barrel

including:
MOSQUITO SCREEN
OVERFLOW DRAIN
SPIGOT

This rain barrel is part of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's green infrastructure program.
Green infrastructure helps prevent flooding and improve water quality by keeping clean water out of the sewer system.



Use water from your rain barrel to wash your car, water your garden or lawn, or wash your pet. Do not drink water from a rain barrel.
For installation instructions and more information, visit mwr.org.
Find the MWRD on Facebook and Twitter and show off your rain barrel!

Attachment B



MWRD Rain Barrel Program

Municipal and Community Group/Non-Governmental Organization Ordering Instructions

Municipalities and Community Groups/Non-Governmental Organizations in the District's service area may order free rain barrels for their residents.

To qualify for free rain barrels, residents must either live in a municipality that has signed an Intergovernmental Agreement with the District or request them through an organization that has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the District.

If the resident meets the above criteria, then the municipality or community group/non-governmental organization may call 815-735-9583 or email sales@upcycle-products.com to order rain barrels*; please write **MWRD Rain Barrel Program** in the subject line.

The following resident information will be required for delivery:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Number of rain barrels _____

Color requested (indicate #) ___ Terra Cotta ___ Blue ___ Black ___ Gray

Desired delivery days/times _____

*A maximum of four rain barrels may be ordered per location. Bulk deliveries will continue to be made to organizations and agencies wishing to purchase rain barrels at cost from the District.

Need more information? Visit www.mwrdd.org or call (312) 751-6633.

Free Rain Barrel Program Municipal Application Form for Residents

We are pleased to offer free rain barrels to our residents. Please complete the information needed for delivery.

Resident's information:

Name: _____
(Please print)

Home address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Number of rain barrels requested: _____

Rain Barrel Color (indicate #): ___ Terra Cotta ___ Blue ___ Black ___ Gray

Desired delivery days/times: _____