



Green Rainwater Capture Solution Incentive Program - O'ahu

FAQs

Q What is the Green Rainwater Capture Solution Incentive Program?

The program provides a financial incentive for eligible residents (owners and renters) the option to eliminate the cost of implementing select green rainwater capture solutions, also referred to as Green Stormwater Infrastructure or Green Infrastructure. With this being a pilot, the aim is to determine how an incentive program can be implemented with the potential to be developed into a fully developed county-wide program.

Q What are Green Rainwater Capture Solutions?

Green rainwater capture solutions mimic the natural systems to manage rainwater to prevent runoff and provides environmental, social, and economic benefits. Solutions refer to sustainable strategies that manage rainwater where it falls, through natural processes such as infiltration and evapotranspiration. Examples include rain gardens, infiltration basins, permeable paving, and rain barrels, among others.

Q What are the Green Rainwater Capture Solution Incentive Program benefits?

With more residences addressing rainwater flowing into our streets and stormwater system (storm drains, streams), the project will help to reduce flooding and polluted runoff that impairs our waterways and help with freshwater conservation. At the same time, installing green rainwater capture solutions can help residents reduce their water bills by capturing or reusing rainwater instead of having to turn on the tap.

Q What are eligible Green Rainwater Capture Solutions for this program?

Applicants will have the option to choose one of three solutions, which include:

- Rain gardens: Covers a garden up to 100 square feet, including plants and installation.
- Rain barrel: Covers one catchment system and installation.
- Trees: Covers one tree (approx. 2-3 gallon) and installation.

Tree and plant species will depend upon location and availability.



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Q Why was this pilot program created?

The program was created to provide access and financing options to renters and homeowners who may not otherwise have the knowledge or financing to install green rainwater capture solutions to help reduce runoff.

Q Who is eligible to apply?

Any resident of Hawai'i may apply who can complete and submit the application by the due date. In advance, please make sure your property is suitable for the rainwater capture solution requested.

Q What is the Letter of Agreement?

The Letter of Agreement is on the project website (rainwaterhawaii.com). This is a document that must be signed if selected to be a demonstration site as part of this project. If you are a renter, the property owner must also be willing to sign the agreement.

Q What are the requirements to apply?

Submit a complete application (available at rainwaterhawaii.com).

Q Is this program available on all islands?

No, the program is only available on O'ahu.

Q Does the applicant get paid for the rainwater capture installation?

No. The program assigned contractor is paid.



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Q What is the schedule?

March 31, 2025

Application submission deadline.

April 1 - May 30, 2025

Submissions will be screened based on the completeness of the application.

A follow-up site visit or call may be necessary.

June 1, 2025

Applicants will be notified if selected & sent paperwork to complete.

June 30, 2025

Applicants must respond with the required paperwork to accept the offer.

July 1 - October 30, 2025

An appointment with an approved contractor will be arranged to plan for the project to be installed.

Q I'm a renter. Can I still participate? Why would I want to use this program?

Yes. Renters are eligible if their landlord (the property owner of record) agrees to participate and comply with the required terms and conditions of the program (the Letter of Agreement available on the program homepage, rainwaterhawaii.com).

Q Who is responsible for system maintenance?

The property owner/applicant is responsible for routine and emergency maintenance or repairs post-installation. You can email runoff@malamanaunlua.org for support or guidance.

Q Can I get multiple rainwater capture solutions on my property?

TBD. The goal is to spread the limited available funds to as many homeowners as possible.



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Q Is there a certain income level to participate?

Any resident may apply. However, to allow the program to assist the more low and moderate-income households, selection for applicants in this category will be weighed more heavily.

Q What if I move to a new location?

Your obligation would be to share knowledge about the system and maintenance with the new owner and share the signed agreement.

Q Can I install the equipment myself?

No, The Program Team will match you with a pre-approved contractor who will do the work.

Q How can I apply?

To apply, visit rainwaterhawaii.com to access the link to the Google Form application or to download the application.

Should you have any more questions, please email runoff@malamamaunlua.org.