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For immediate Release

The Value of Rainwater Harvesting

Stanton (May 1, 2020) – As there is a push for our world to become more green, it isn't a surprise that rainwater harvesting is becoming increasingly more popular. There are countless benefits to capturing rainwater. Even the great state of Texas recognizes these benefits and the importance and offer incentives to those who construct rainwater harvesting on their homes.

Rainwater harvesting isn't a new concept, it dates back as far as 4,000 years ago. It is valued for its purity and softness. Rainwater has a nearly neutral pH, is chlorine free, and doesn't contain mineral deposit or harsh chemicals. Plants, gardens, and crops thrive on rainwater due to these reasons. If used in the home, appliances life span will substantially increase due to their being no buildup of minerals and because of the softness of the water. Rainwater is also free and could help cut costs on water once the cost of collection and use is paid for. Most importantly, rainwater provides a water source when groundwater is unavailable or unacceptable. Even in places where rain is scarce you would be amazed at how much rainwater can be harvested throughout the year. A 1 inch rain on a 2,000 square foot roof will yield about 1,200 gallons of water. The average rainfall in our area is 19 inches a year, so that is 23,000 gallons of water a year that could be caught with a 2,000 square foot roof. This is free, pure water that can be used to assist your plants or home.

Texas offers several incentives and support for rainwater harvesting. Texas Legislature allows exemption on part or all of the assessed value of the property on which approved water conservation initiatives, such as rainwater harvesting are made. Any individual planning to install a rainwater harvesting system should check with their county appraisal district for guidance on exemptions from county property taxes. Texas Tax Code also exempts rainwater harvesting equipment and supplies from state sales tax with a Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate. Texas Property code prevents a homeowner's association from prohibiting the use of rainwater harvesting systems. Texas also requires some new state facilities to incorporate rainwater harvesting systems in their design.

If the thought of rainwater harvesting interests you then we encourage you to reach out to our office at the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District at www.pbuwcd.com or by phone at 432-756-2136. You may also check with your local Texas AgriLife Extension office or the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). TWDB provides information to the public on all aspects of rainwater harvesting at www.twdb.texas.gov.