

Texas Water Conservation And Reuse Awards

Sponsored by the Texas Section AWWA
Water Conservation & Reuse Division

Entry Form

Direct Indirect (check one)

Direct programs show quantifiable reductions in water consumption.

Indirect programs include projects for which results may not easily be measured in quantifiable terms.

Large utility (≥ 50,000 connections)
 Small utility (<50,000 connections)
 Large Nonutility (produce or treat ≥ 100,000 gallons/year)
 Small Nonutility (produce or treat < 100,000 gallons/year)

For Reuse Projects only:
Please include this submission for consideration for the Bob Derrington Reclamation Award (does not exclude entry from any other award category).

Rain Water Harvesting

Project name _____

City of Pflugerville _____

Organization name (if applicable) _____

P.O Box 589 _____

Address _____

Pflugerville, Texas 78691 _____

City State ZIP

Phone: 512-990-6400 _____

Fax: 512-998-1052 _____

Email: patriciar@pflugervilletx.gov _____

darrellw@pflugervilletx.gov _____

Words to be engraved on award

City of Pflugerville Water Conservation

Please submit **three copies** of each entry to:

Jennifer Douglass Nations,

College Station Water Services Department

Mail: P.O. Box 9960 College Station, TX 77842

Physical: 1601 Graham Road College Station, TX 77845

Deadline: February 28, 2014

Texas Water Conservation And Reuse Awards

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Would you like to spread the word about your utility or company's efforts in preserving Texas' precious water resources? Then apply for a Conservation/Reuse Award! The Conservation and Reuse Division of the Texas Section American Water Works Association is seeking award applications to recognize utilities, companies, government agencies, and private individuals who have discovered and implemented methods for better water-use efficiency. Awards will be presented at Texas Water 2014: April 14 – 17, 2014 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel and Convention Center in Dallas.

Successful award entries will recognize activities that best support or promote efficient water use. Entries will be judged on *innovation, implementation/execution, transferability, and benefits/results*. Water reclamation and reuse projects are eligible for an additional award, the Bob Derrington Reclamation Award for water reuse. Winners will need to include a 250-word project summary and any pictures or visuals to use in the awards presentation with their application.

Direct programs show quantifiable reductions in water consumption.

Indirect programs include education or demonstration projects for which results may not be measured in quantifiable terms.

Large and small utilities, as well as nonutility agencies, are eligible to apply for an award. Please refer to the entry form at left for award divisions.

How to submit an award:

- Entries must be accompanied by the entry form at left and received no later than **February 28, 2014**.
- Electronic award submissions are welcome and encouraged. If not submitted electronically, submit three copies of the application package to the address listed below for the judging committee.
- Projects submitted for consideration must have been conducted or achieved substantial completion by Dec. 31, 2013.
- Each entry should include a summary of the project with the following supporting information:
 - Description of the project.
 - Criteria used to determine the need and potential benefits of the project.
 - Planning objectives, strategies, techniques, and resources.
 - Implementation, tools, materials, difficulties encountered and overcome, and effectiveness in employing resources.
 - For direct projects – quantity of water saved, savings in water purchase costs and wastewater fees; conformance to budget; and extent to which objectives were met.
 - For indirect projects, detail on how goals of the program were met, outcomes, and results.

For more information, or to request an entry form, contact **Jennifer Douglass Nations, 979-764-6223, FAX 979-764-3452, jnations@cs.tx.gov**. The form is also available at the Texas Water 2014 website, <http://www.texas-water.com>.

Texas Water Conservation And Reuse Award

Rainwater Harvesting

Description-

The City's Water Conservation Rainwater Harvesting Program provides Pflugerville water customers the opportunity to purchase rain barrels and provides them another viable option for obtaining water for residential and commercial use.

Rainwater harvesting reduces customers water usage cost and demand on the water supply. This program is part of the City's Water Conservation strategy and will allow for lower water usage. Water customers can use harvested rainwater for watering plants and landscaping. Initiatives such as this help the City maintain an adequate supply of water for the future water system.

The concept of water harvesting has been around for centuries. People have relied on rainwater harvesting to supply water for livestock and agricultural uses as well as households and landscapes. Before large centralized water supply systems existed, rainwater was collected from rooftops and stored in tanks known as cisterns. Larger and reliable water treatment and distribution systems along with affordable well drilling equipment have minimized use of rain harvesting. A renewed interest in collecting water has emerged in Texas because of escalating environmental and economic costs of providing water by centralized water systems or by well drilling. Potential cost savings and health benefits associated with rainwater collection systems have further encouraged interest in rainwater harvesting.

In 2013, the City's Public Works Department hosted their first Water Harvesting Rain Barrel Sale. This sale allowed residents to purchase an affordable Rain Barrel for Rainwater Harvesting (\$63/each 50 gallon barrel) and distributed them at their Public Works Open House. At this event, the department sold 393 barrels to the local community.

The program contributes new information on how to improve water conservation by educating users about other alternatives and options for water users. As part of improvements to the City's Public Library, a rainwater harvesting system was installed so patrons and residents can actually see and learn from the many benefits of harvesting rainwater for the environment and future supply needs.

Rainwater harvesting is an innovative alternative water supply approach that anyone can use. Rainwater harvesting captures, diverts, and stores rainwater for later use. Although rainwater harvesting is not defined as a required effort by cities, it has become one of several creative solutions that the City's team is using to promote the City's drought management planning and enforcement strategies.

In the event that Pflugerville experiences a water shortage, the City's Drought Contingency Plan is implemented which strictly limits water usage by consumers.

As Central Texas continues to experience one of the most severe and prolonged droughts in history, the City and its leadership has been required by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to make adjustments to trigger points for the city's water restrictions in the City's Drought Management Plan. In June 2013, the City Council approved an amendment to the City's Drought Management Plan that included new requirements for once a week watering and an administrative charge to customers with repeated water use violations. As the City continues to grow and our water needs grow with it, this program provides a great alternative to conventional water collection that can not only serve a purpose but provide education to users about the scarcity and need for conservation of this precious resource.

Results-

The City's Public Works department sold 393 rainwater harvesting barrels to the local community; and received very positive feedback about the program and the product itself. Residents were pleased with the quality and affordable price of the rain barrel which allowed them to purchase more than one barrel. By harvesting rainwater, it allows a more natural resource for watering plants, gardens and landscaping while preserving this resource for future needs.

In many Texas communities, at least 30 to 50 percent of the total water is used for landscape irrigation. With the drought continuing to place a strain on public water supplies, rainwater harvesting offers an alternative water source that benefits everyone. As a component of the City's conservation strategy, this program has increased citizen participation, education and involvement and provided another alternative to using potable water. The City's water usage has continued to decrease as water conservation initiatives and policies are put in place. The programs' efforts have shown to provide a correlation with a decrease in usage from the previous year's statistics. With our current drought conditions, these usage changes provide a positive outlook for the program's effectiveness. Implementing rainwater harvesting is valuable to the community because it reduces the demand on existing water supplies, and reduces run-off, erosion and contamination of surface water.

Leadership in conservation-

Municipal water use plays an integral part in supporting the state's economy and population. The City of Pflugerville's management team recognizes the importance of water conservation and partnering with other statewide and local entities to promote long-term water planning that includes water conservation strategies.

Municipal water conservation planning produces huge benefits and is an essential part of water management.

The City of Pflugerville continues to ensure wise water use and see the results of the leadership initiatives created by water conservation managers to ensure a cost effective method of addressing increased water demands while delaying expensive supply and/or capacity expansions at treatment facilities. This reinforces the City's commitment to conservation and being honorable stewards of the state's water resources.

The City's Conservation staff works closely with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Central Texas Water Efficiency Network and other local municipalities such as the cities of Austin, Cedar Park, Georgetown, Hutto, Round Rock, San Marcos, New Braunfels to promote regional conservation efforts. Conservation staff visits with schools, civic groups, professional organizations, businesses and citizens regarding water conservation efforts.

With landscape irrigation creating a significant demand on the water supply system, it is important to provide education and promote conservation efforts that empower water users with other viable options for watering grass and landscaping.

The Water Conservation staff has also promoted the rain harvesting program in the city's weekly newsletter, in brochures placed in city offices and throughout town and in the local newspapers. A presentation to the City Council about the rain harvesting program was televised on the City's cable access channel. To signify the importance of rainwater harvesting to the City, a logo label was affixed to each barrel distributed that signified the City's commitment to the program. The rain harvesting barrels were distributed at a Public Works Open House held in May 2013 to allow residents to visit the department to learn more about the current water restrictions and obtain information on water conservation tips and future projects to help the community continue to conserve our water. City staff has realized that there continues to be a strong interest in the community for purchasing rain harvesting barrels to help conserve water.

The potential water savings provided by water conservation programs such as the Rain Harvesting Program can provide are practical and significant potential for future water needs. In order to ensure that water is available into the next century, the City must continue to be innovative and deliberate about smart management of our water resources.