



# Rainwater Harvesting Initiative

Portland Metro Area



## OVERVIEW

The Rainwater Harvesting Initiative seeks to address challenges related to ponding, flooding, sheet and rill erosion, and inefficient irrigation water usage on urban lands. By implementing innovative solutions such as rainwater harvest catchment systems, this initiative aims to support efficient water management practices on urban growing spaces, specifically in the capture and storage of rainwater for irrigation use on crops.

This initiative aligns with NRCS' broader mission to support and promote sustainable farming practices, to conserve our natural resources, and to foster the resiliency of urban food systems across the nation.

## CONTACT

To get started with a conservation plan or to begin the application process for financial assistance, contact your **NRCS Urban Conservationist, Stephanie Payne at (541) 219-2141 or [Stephanie.Payne@usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Payne@usda.gov)**.

## AVAILABLE PRACTICES

The following conservation practices and activities are available under this initiative:

- **Soil and Source Nutrient Testing**
- **Critical Area Plantings**
- **Irrigation Pipeline**
- **Micro-irrigation Systems**
- **Irrigation Water Management Plans**
- **Pumping Plants**
- **Roof Runoff Structures**
- **Heavy Use Areas**
- **Structures for Water Control**
- **Underground Outlets**
- **Water Harvesting Catchment**



## PRIORITIZATION QUESTIONS

NRCS uses prioritization questions to evaluate applications. The prioritization questions for this initiative are:

- Is the application for a locally led priority or a priority designated by the State Conservationist?
- Has the applicant implemented the operation and maintenance plans for all practices installed with program assistance in the past five years, or this is the applicant's first contract?
- Are each of the applicant's active program contracts in compliance, or is this the applicant's first contract?
- Has the applicant avoided contract termination within the past 3 years, or is this the applicant's first contract?

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like more information about Farm Bill Program opportunities available in your county visit:  
<https://bit.ly/3kLIKSG>



## RANKING QUESTIONS

- Is the applicant located within the Portland Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)?
- Is the applicant located within 10 miles of the Portland Metro UGB?
- Is the applicant selling or donating food grown on the operation to markets located within the Portland Metro UGB?
- Will roof runoff be captured and re-used for irrigation on cropland?
- Will planned activities redirect and control runoff from farm structures?
- Will planned practices reduce the use of municipal water for irrigation on cropland annually by:
  - <25%
  - 25-50%
  - 50-75%
  - >75%