



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program Starts April 15

Sechelt, BC— April 1, 2019—The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) is pleased to announce that applications for the rainwater harvesting rebate program will be accepted again starting April 15, 2019.

Operating on a first-come, first serve basis while funds are available, the rebate program entitles property owners with an SCR D water utilities account to a rebate of up to \$500 to apply to the purchase of a rainwater storage cistern with a minimum storage volume of 4,500 litres. Pre-approval application forms, including designs, will be accepted until funds are fully allocated.

“Summer precipitation patterns on the Sunshine Coast are such that rainwater harvesting requires a large storage capacity in order to be impactful,” says Raph Shay, SCR D Water and Energy Projects Coordinator, Infrastructure Services. “For this reason, larger cisterns are more effective than barrels in supplying water during periods of drought.”

Captured rainwater is not subject to the Drought Management Plan water use restrictions.

The rainwater harvesting rebate program will help meet the SCR D’s goal of reducing water consumption by 33% by the year 2020 from 2010 levels. A 4,500 litres cistern would save an estimated 13,400 litres of water per year with average precipitation.

Within the first six weeks after the first intake of the program in 2018, 47 rebates were awarded to residents who depend on the Chapman Creek water system. Unfortunately, no applications were received for the rebates available for the water systems in the Pender Harbour area.

Additional requirements that may or may not be needed are the responsibility of the property owner. These could include requirements associated with water quality, backflow prevention, building permits or development permits. Cistern material and design are also the responsibility of the property owner.

To find out how to apply for the program and eligibility requirements, visit www.scrd.ca/rainwater or call 604-885-6806.

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