



Dear Neighbor,

Did you know that rain barrels can reduce your water bill while helping protect the environment? Rain barrels capture and store rainwater from your home's roof and can be used to water your yard or garden. Although you may know Green Light New Orleans as the "light bulb people" or the "backyard vegetable garden people" our mission *includes clean energy, food and water*. To help New Orleans households with water management we transform old food barrels from local restaurants into rain barrels, and then assist with installation. To learn more and apply for Green Light's Rain Barrel program, please visit [greenlightneworleans.org](http://greenlightneworleans.org) or call 504-324-2429.

Thanks,  
Team Green Light New Orleans



# HARVEST THE RAIN

SIGN UP TODAY 504 324 2429  
VISIT [WWW.GREENLIGHTNEWORLEANS.ORG](http://WWW.GREENLIGHTNEWORLEANS.ORG)



TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE  
A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT  
ONE HOUSEHOLD AT A TIME



## Why install a rain barrel?

- Save money on your water bill
- Help reduce the city's carbon emissions
- Plants thrive on rainwater: It's chemical-free
- Combat subsidence (the sinking of the ground)

### Rain Barrel Program Requirements

- Own your home or have landlord permission
- Roof is constructed of nontoxic materials (no asbestos)
- Gutters and downspouts are in good working condition
- Adequate space for a barrel (barrels are approximately 2 feet wide and must be placed within 2 feet of a downspout)
- Participate in surveys to track program impact

### Act Now

Apply for the Program

### Take Action

Become a Volunteer

### Network Action

Spread the Word

### Enable Action

Make a Donation

## **RAIN BARREL PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Did you know rain barrels can reduce your water bill while helping protect the environment? Rain barrels capture and store rainwater from your home's roof for use in your lawn or garden. Although you may know Green Light New Orleans as the "light bulb people" or the "backyard vegetable garden people," our mission includes clean energy, food *and* water. To help New Orleans households with water management we transform old food barrels from local restaurants into rain barrels, and then assist with installation.

### **Why install a rain barrel?**

Rainwater run off ends up in Lake Pontchartrain, carrying with it pollutants from the city streets. By pumping the water out of the city, an enormous amount of carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere. The process of pumping water out of the city is also one of the elements that causes subsidence, or the sinking of ground levels, in New Orleans. However, some of this valuable rainwater can be diverted from your home's roof directly into a rain barrel via your downspout. Households use rain barrels to either conserve water for use when it hasn't rained and their plants need it, or they use their barrel strictly as a stormwater management tool. Plants prefer rainwater because it's free of chemicals, and you'll save money on your water bill by reducing the amount of city water needed for irrigation. Households using their barrel for stormwater management empty all the water out from their barrel as soon as the ground is dry and can absorb it. This could be hours or even days after a major rain event. Using your barrel as a stormwater management tool reduces the amount of water flowing to city streets during a storm, helping to alleviate flooding. By discharging the water from your rain barrel on a regular basis, the barrel will be empty in time for the next storm, and ready to capture some of the rainfall again.



### **Things you need to know:**

- Rain barrels can be used with watering cans or low-pressure soaker hoses, but do not have enough water pressure to operate a regular hose.
- We'll drill a hole into your downspout to install the rain barrel. If you move the barrel, it is your responsibility to patch the hole.
- We'll level the ground and build a solid foundation for your barrel to rest upon. However, soils inevitably shift in New Orleans and it is your responsibility to ensure the barrel remains on a level plane and to re-level the soil if it shifts in the future.
- Maintenance is your responsibility. This includes removing the debris from your gutters, downspouts, rainwater diverter kit, and cleaning the barrel.

### **Rain Barrel Program Requirements:**

- Own your home or get written permission from your landlord
- Roof is constructed of nontoxic materials (no asbestos)
- Gutters and downspouts are in good working condition
- Adequate space for a barrel (barrels are approximately 2 feet wide and must be placed within 2 feet of a downspout)
- Participate in surveys to track program impact and allow Green Light to map your location
- be willing to share the cost (see sliding scale on page 4 )

**To apply**, please answer all of the following questions. The purpose of this form is to determine if your household qualifies for this program and to establish mutual expectations (what you can expect from us and what we require from you as a participant).

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have an email address, please include it—we often utilize this mode of contact to get in touch!*

**Rain Barrel Program Requirements**

Please type/write your initials next to the following seven questions to confirm that you meet that requirement.

1. I own my home. \_\_\_\_\_ I rent \_\_\_\_\_

*If you rent, please have your landlord apply for the program or have him sign a written statement.*

2a. My home has gutters and downspouts that are in good working condition. \_\_\_\_\_

*If not, please install them and then apply for the program.*

2b. My roofing material does not contain asbestos or other toxic material and is safe to harvest water from. \_\_\_\_\_

2c. Green Light’s rain barrels are two feet wide and can be placed no more than 2 feet away from a downspout. I have selected a location next to a downspout that has enough space and will not block a pathway. \_\_\_\_\_

2d. I understand Green Light will drill a hole into the downspout, and that I, as the homeowner, am responsible for patching the hole at a later date if I remove the barrel. \_\_\_\_\_

2e. I understand that Green Light’s rain barrels do not create enough water pressure to operate a regular hose, and that these barrels can be used only with low-pressure soaker hoses or with watering cans. \_\_\_\_\_

2f. I will play an active role in Green Light’s rain barrel program by providing Green Light with four meter readings within the next year and by responding to three surveys. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please check if you've participated in the following Green Light programs:

Energy-efficient Light Bulb program

Backyard Vegetable Garden program

4. How many adults (18+), including yourself, are in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many children below age 18 are in your household?

aged **0-5yrs.** \_\_\_\_\_ aged **6-12 yrs.** \_\_\_\_\_ aged **13-17 yrs** \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

6. How did you hear about Green Light's Rain Barrel program?

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7. Why are you interested in receiving a rain barrel?

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8. What will you use the water in the rain barrel for? Please rate the following list of potential water uses in terms of importance for your household (1: very important, 2: important, 3: somewhat important, 0: not important or not a concern)

\_\_\_\_\_ Help alleviate flooding around the home

\_\_\_\_\_ Water ornamental/flower plants

\_\_\_\_\_ Water a food garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Water the lawn

\_\_\_\_\_ Other. Please explain:

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We will design your rain barrel system based on your needs—whether it's conserving water for use in your garden, or to help manage flooding. Please be specific on what your needs are!

9. Do you currently use city water to irrigate your lawn or plants?

**Yes**    **No**    **Not applicable**

10. How much was last month's water bill?   Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

11. What shape downspout do you have?

Circular

Rectangular

Other. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

12. What dimensions is the downspout? Please measure with a ruler and give us the answer in inches (for example: 3" x 4") \_\_\_\_\_

13. The ideal spot for installing a barrel is level, firm ground. Is the ground area near your downspout:

- Soil
- Pavement
- Other. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

13b. If this area is pavement, is it level?     **Yes**         **No**         **Not applicable**

13c. If this area is soil, can we easily dig down to place sand and gravel there to level the area?

- Yes**     **No**        If no, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

14. What days and times for a rain barrel installation would (generally) work for you? Installation can take 2-3 hours.

- MON am**     **TUES am**     **WED am**     **THURS am**     **FRI am**     **SAT am**
- MON pm**     **TUES pm**     **WED pm**     **THURS pm**     **FRI pm**     **SAT pm**

15. Are you a Green Light member?     **Yes**         **No**

16. We ask you to share the cost of your barrel.

Please take some time to evaluate your financial resources based on the suggested levels of our sliding scale, and consider what level of contribution will be appropriate for your household. We believe that financial security doesn't depend solely on income level, therefore we ask you to self-assess your financial security to determine your contribution level. The required minimum contribution is \$10.

- I can make a contribution of \$10.
- I feel financially secure to make a contribution of \$50.
- I feel financially secure to make a contribution of \$100.
- I can cover the cost of all the materials. \$173
- I feel empowered by your work and I can also provide the materials for another family. \$346

Material	Cost
Barrel	\$20.00
Cleaning supplies	\$5.00
6 pavers	\$45.00
Sand and Gravel	\$7.00
Flex It Diverter	\$16.50
Diverter hose and seal	\$9.95
Spigot and bearing	\$15.00
Paint	\$20.00
Artist stipend	\$35.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$173.45</b>

17.a) Will you allow Green Light staff to conduct regular check-ins? **Yes** **No**

17.b) Will you allow Green Light to list your barrel's location on maps of where barrels have been installed? (your name and personal information will not be shared)  
**Yes** **No**

18.a) Does your yard flood? **Yes** **No**

18.b) Does your street flood? **Yes** **No**  
 If yes, do you have a downspout facing the street? **Yes** **No**

19) Will you allow Green Light to post a photo of you and your barrel on our web site?  
**Yes** **No**

*I certify that the above information is true and correct.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

When your application is complete, please send it via mail or email to:

**Email:**

[rainbarrel@greenlightneworleans.org](mailto:rainbarrel@greenlightneworleans.org)

**Snail Mail:**

**Rain Barrel Program  
 Green Light New Orleans  
 8203 Jeannette St  
 New Orleans, LA 70118**

**Questions? Contact us at: (504) 324-2429**