



Austin's Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program

Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium

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Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program History

- Rebates ongoing since 1999
- Subsidized Rain Barrels distributed from 2001 to 2009
- July 2010 increased max. rebate from \$500 to \$5,000 to:
 - Encourage more larger capacity systems
 - Increase participation for savings analysis
- Rebate outside cost-benefit benchmark and short-term
- Higher rebate amounts or those with low or negative cost/benefit ratios typical for pilot programs to collect data for innovative or untested technology or increase public conservation awareness
- 2013 - changes to program propose
 - Reduce per gallon rebate
 - Eliminate or greatly expand rebate cap
 - Changes not accepted by oversight board

Current Rebate Structure

- Rebate calculation: **(Not to exceed 50% of the system cost)**
 - \$ 0.50 / gal. for non-pressurized systems. (rainbarrels)
 - \$ 1.00 /gal. for pressurized systems (large cisterns with a pump)
 - \$5,000 lifetime maximum
- All individual rainbarrels are less than 500 gallons
 - May purchase and install barrels and submit application and receipts within 30 days of installation
- Systems with a tank 500 gallons or greater
 - Must apply and be approved for the program before purchase or installation



RAINWATER HARVESTING
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL REBATE

Austin Water's Rainwater Harvesting Rebate* can help you buy equipment for capturing rain water.
** For tanks 500 gallons and up, you must get pre-approval before you buy or install any equipment.*

WATER SAVINGS

- Using a rainwater harvesting system can reduce the amount of paid water you use.

REBATE AMOUNT

- Up to \$5,000 per site (lifetime limit)
 - o Non-pressurized (no pump): \$0.50 per gallon up to half of the equipment cost
 - o Pressurized (has a pump): \$1.00 per gallon up to half of the equipment cost
 - o May apply every 12 months for system expansions until you reach \$5,000
- Includes costs (materials and labor) for tank, pad, screens, filters, first-flush, and selected piping installation. Gutters, irrigation system, shipping or delivery, and auxiliary water source requirements are not included

ELIGIBILITY

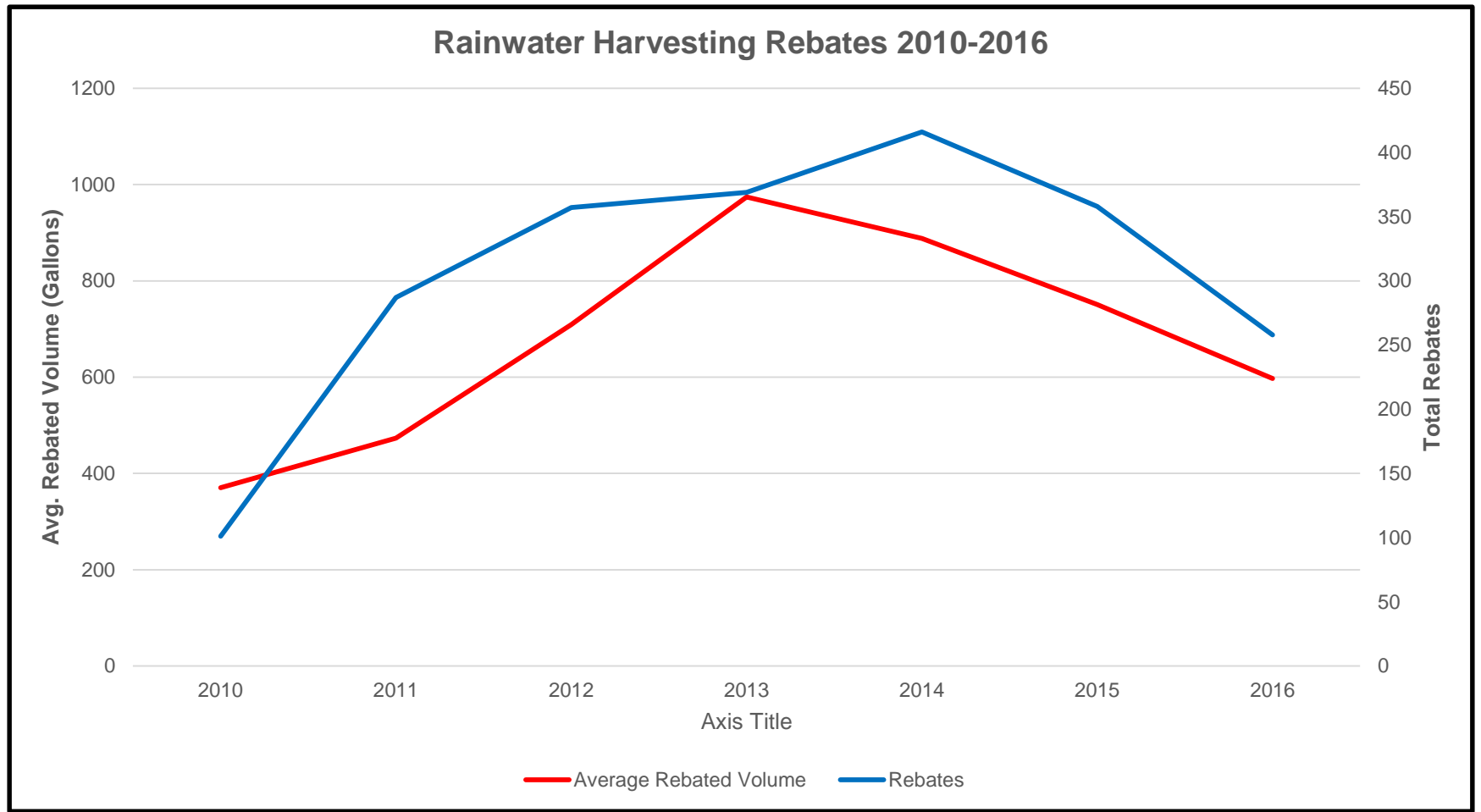
- Applicant:
 - o Must be a customer of Austin Water or a [qualifying water provider](#)
 - o Must be the property owner or utility account holder
 - o May not have applied in the past 12 months or reached the \$5,000 limit for the site
 - o Must intend to keep a system under 500 gallons in service for five years and a system 500 gallons and up in service for ten years
 - o Agrees to any needed pre- and post-installation inspections by Austin Water
 - o Willing to let Austin Water reference the project in outreach materials
- Rainwater Harvesting System:
 - o Must be a new system or an expansion of an existing system
 - o Must meet City subdivision and zoning requirements, including setback and impervious cover limits (contact [Development Assistance Center](#) at 512-978-4000) and any homeowners association regulations
 - o Systems with a pump and at least 500 gallons of capacity (including combined capacity if multiple tanks are connected) must meet auxiliary water requirements, including cross connection testing, backflow prevention, and permits. (contact [Special Services](#) at 512-972-1000)
 - o Collected rainwater may not be used for drinking
 - o Equipment must be new and intended for rainwater harvesting
 - o Metal tanks must be lined. Transparent tanks/pipe must be painted or enclosed
 - o Tanks that are 500 gallons or larger must have a first-flush diversion system and a level base made of gravel, sand, or concrete

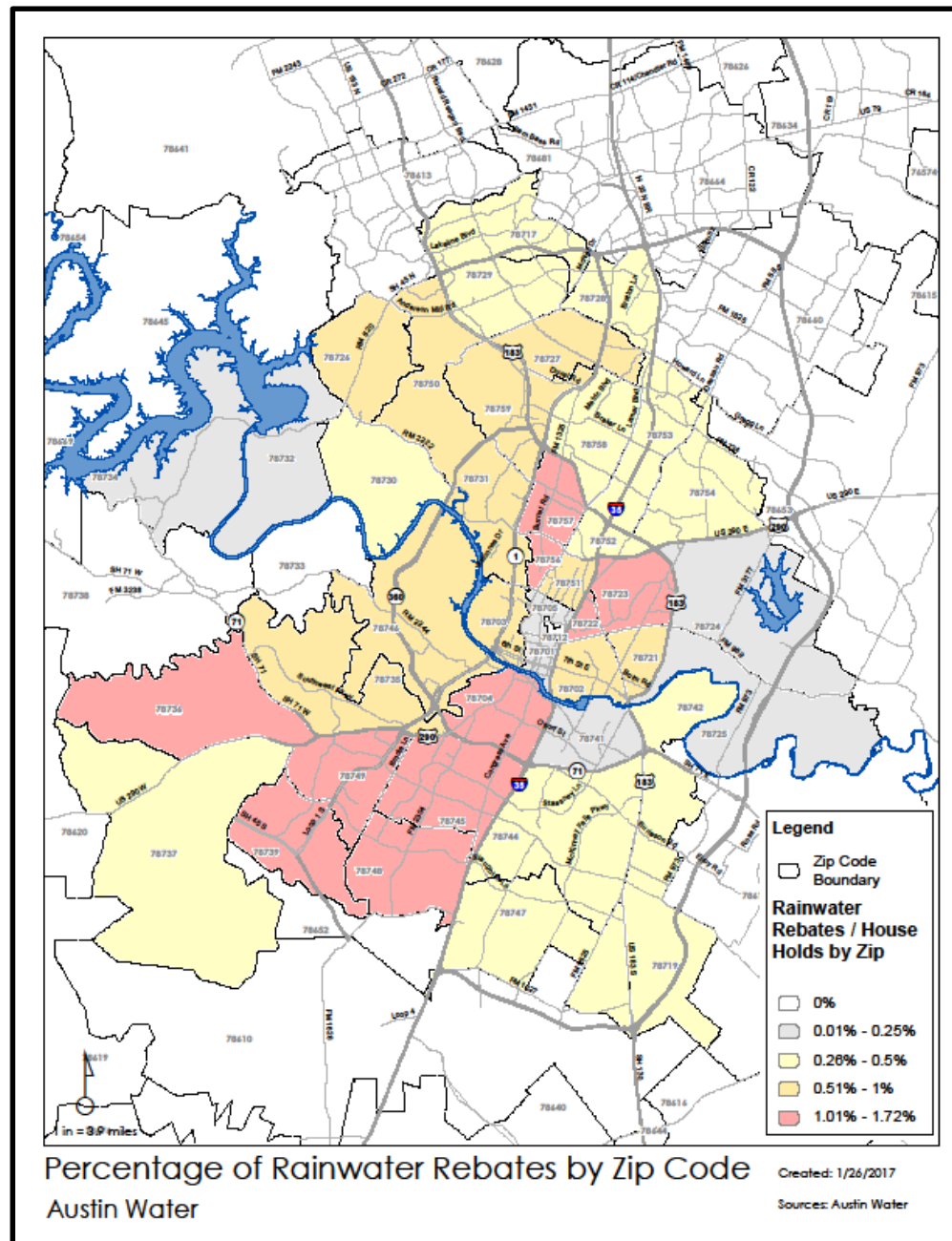
CHECKLIST **IF ALL TANKS ARE LESS THAN 500 GALLONS EACH**

- Meet all eligibility requirements above
- Install the system

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Percentage of Rainwater Rebates by Zip Code
Austin Water

Looking Forward

- Water Forward Task Force
- CodeNext
 - Green Infrastructure Working Group
 - Sustainably Managing our Natural Resources
- Potential Rebate changes to encourage Scale Applications



WATER FORWARD
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE PLAN

CODENEXT
SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE



Questions?

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Austin Water Background

- ~223,000 Connections
- ~980,000 retail and wholesale customers
- 548 square mile service area
- ~3,807 miles of mains (both transmission and distribution)
- Conservation program history since 1983
 - Council mandates in 2006, 2007 and 2010
 - ~23% reduction in five year rolling average GPCD (FY 06 – FY 15)