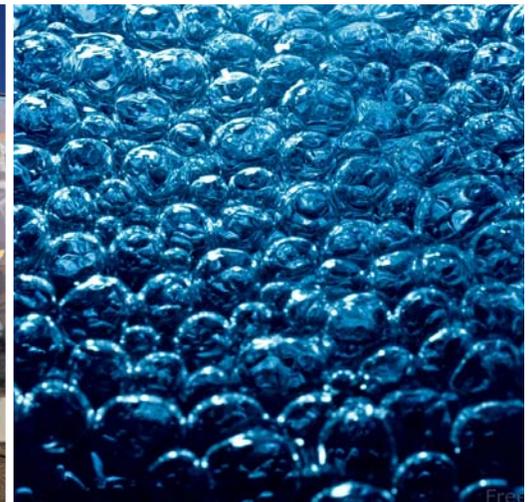
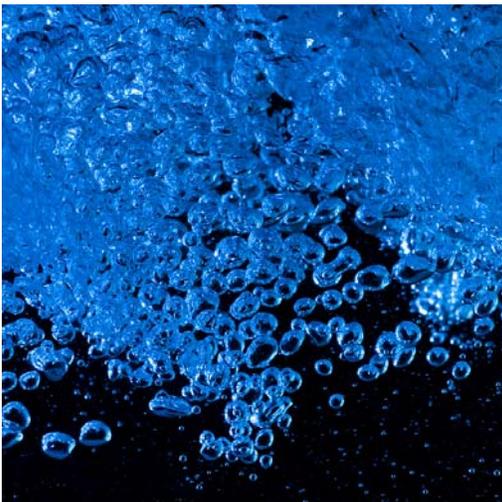


Catch the Rain!

Rainwater
Harvesting
Activities
4-H₂O

- A Guide for 4-H
Leaders & Teachers



Catch the Rain! Rainwater Harvesting Activities 4-H₂O

A Guide for 4-H Leaders and Teachers

2010



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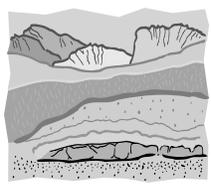
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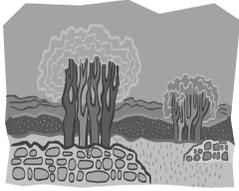
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Overview

Welcome to “Catch the Rain,” a collection of hands-on, interactive activities designed to engage youth in understanding purposes, uses, applications, and designs of rainwater harvesting systems. Together the activities promote a culture of conservation through the development of rainwater harvesting demonstration and use projects, encouragement of community awareness and action, and optimally the reduction of groundwater and surface water use.

Collecting rainwater has been practiced throughout the world for thousands of years. There is a renewed and growing interest in rainwater harvesting in the United States as parts of the country experience periods of drought and municipalities work to manage stormwater. Where legally allowable,* rainwater harvesting offers people opportunities to conserve other water resources by using rainwater to water landscapes and gardens, flush toilets, and, with purification, for drinking, cooking, and washing.

The 33 activities in this publication are divided into seven categorical sections:

1. Water Cycle
2. Conservation
3. Watersheds and Aquifers
4. Rainwater Harvesting Basics
5. Passive Rainwater Harvesting
6. Active Rainwater Harvesting
7. Rainwater Harvesting Outreach

Sections 4 – 7 are on rainwater harvesting; sections 1 – 3 focus on general water concepts that provide a context for rainwater harvesting. Each activity stands on its own. However, the categories provide the option to focus on particular aspects of rainwater harvesting or use a progressive approach by moving from general to specific concepts. The activities can be customized to fit individual instructional programming.

Most activities use readily available materials and take an hour or less to complete. They have been created with youth in 5th through 8th grade as the focus age range but many activities can be adapted to those who are younger or older. The activities encourage an inquiry-based teaching style in which youth actively 1) participate in learning activities, 2) share their experiences, 3) discuss processes, 4) generalize concepts, and 5) apply what they learn to real-life situations and projects. The activities support learning objectives in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Enjoy “catching the rain” with youth!

* Check state laws before promoting rainwater harvesting practices as regulations on rainwater and stormwater collection vary.

Engaging and simple water harvesting conservation projects for youth.



This collection of hands-on, interactive activities is designed to engage youth in understanding purposes, uses, applications, and designs of rainwater harvesting systems. Together the activities promote a culture of conservation through the development of rainwater harvesting demonstration and use projects, encouragement of community awareness and action, and optimally the reduction of surface and groundwater use.



Youth in Bisbee, Arizona join together to move a rainwater harvesting tank into place to provide water for a school garden

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