



## Texas Rain Catcher Award

The Texas Water Development Board announces the **Texas Rain Catcher Award**, a rainwater harvesting competition and recognition program from October 1, 2007, to promote the technology, educate the public, and to recognize excellence in the application of rainwater harvesting systems in Texas.

### Eligibility:

The competition is open to all individuals, companies, organizations, municipalities, and other local and state governmental entities in Texas. Current employees and Board members of the Texas Water Development Board are not eligible to enter the competition.

### Benefits:

There are several benefits to entering and winning the competition. It will provide the winner recognition both within the rainwater harvesting community, and beyond. It will also enhance your reputation within the professional community and identify you as an individual or entity dedicated to water conservation in Texas. As a winner, you will get free publicity - you will be recognized on our Web site for at least two years.

### Competition Structure:

The competition will be conducted in two stages: a quarterly competition and an end-of-year competition. **You may submit your entry from October 1 until December 15, 2008, for the fifth quarterly award.** Each quarter, one entry will be selected as the *Rainwater Harvesting System of the Quarter*. At the end of calendar year 2008, the *Rainwater Harvesting System of the Quarter* with the highest score during the past five quarters will be chosen as the *Rainwater Harvesting System of the Year* and will receive the **Texas Rain Catcher Award**, which will include a certificate of recognition that will be presented by the Texas Water Development Board at an award ceremony in Austin. The winner will be recognized on the TWDB website for a period of at least two years.

An entity or individual may submit only one entry per quarter, which will be judged in the quarter in which it is entered; the entry may be considered in succeeding quarters at the discretion of the judging committee. Once an entry has won in a quarterly competition, it cannot be entered again for the next two calendar years. A *Rainwater Harvesting System of the Year* entry cannot be entered again in any succeeding calendar year unless substantial changes to the system warrant its consideration as a new and different system. This assessment will be at the discretion of the judging committee.

## Judging:

At the end of each quarter, a panel of judges will score each entry received on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest) for each of the criteria listed below.

- Demonstration of how the rainwater harvesting system has helped conserve surface water and/or groundwater through reduced dependency on conventional water supply systems.
- Demonstration of how the rainwater harvesting system has saved money for the owner.
- Originality and innovation as evidenced by the application of new knowledge, new application of existing knowledge, or an innovative mix of existing and new knowledge.
- Demonstration of how the system has benefited the environment (for example, reduced erosion or the threat of flooding) without itself adversely impacting the environment.
- Uniqueness of the system.

The individual scores of all judges will be averaged and a composite total score determined. The entry with the highest total score will be awarded the *System of the Quarter* award. At the end of the calendar year, the *System of the Quarter* with the highest score determined during the quarterly round of competitions during that calendar year will be chosen as *Rainwater Harvesting System of the Year* and awarded the **Texas Rain Catcher Award** in recognition of contribution to rainwater harvesting. The first annual award will be based on five quarters from October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

## Entries:

At a minimum, each entry should contain the following:

- **System Description:** A description of the system not to exceed 500 words which addresses each of the judging criteria (see above).
- **Digital Photos:** A minimum of five (5) and a maximum of ten (10) digital photos (minimum 300 dpi) suitable for displaying on the Web. If submitting an entry in hard copy, please also send color prints of the photos (minimum size: 4 inches by 6 inches).
- **Contact Information:** Please submit complete contact information including the name of a contact person, mailing address, phone and /or fax number, and an e-mail address. You can find our privacy policy on electronic mail at:  
<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/legalnotice.asp>.

You can submit an entry either electronically via e-mail as a Microsoft Word document or by regular mail (print format, CD or DVD). If submitting by e-mail, please send your entry to [iwt@twdb.state.tx.us](mailto:iwt@twdb.state.tx.us) using the subject line, Texas Rain Catcher Award. If submitting by regular mail, please send three (3) copies of the application including the photographs. For entries sent by regular mail, our mailing address is:

Texas Water Development Board  
Attn: Texas Rain Catcher Award (Room 452)  
P.O. Box 13231  
Austin, Texas 78711-3231

### **Award:**

Winners of the **Texas Rain Catcher Annual Award** will be invited to Austin to receive their award during a meeting of the TWDB Board in February each year. The winning entry will be displayed on our Web site for at least two years until the next winner is announced. Thereafter, it will be available for viewing in the Archive section of the winning entries for a period of five years. The winning entry will also be profiled in the Spring edition of *Water for Texas*, the Texas Water Development Board's quarterly publication. Winners of the *System of the Quarter* award will also have their entries displayed on our Web site for at least two years.

### **For More Information Contact:**

Texas Water Development Board  
Attn: Texas Rain Catcher Award  
P.O. Box 13231  
Austin, Texas 78711-3231  
Phone: 512-475-3003