



Texas Rain Catcher Award

The Texas Water Development Board announces the Texas Rain Catcher Award, a rainwater harvesting competition and recognition program 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 including former employees of the TWDB. However, current employees of the TWDB and TWDB Board members are not eligible to enter the competition.

Benefits:

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

Competition Structure:

The competition will be conducted **annually**. The deadline for submitting an entry is **December 31** of each year. There will be **three different categories** in which awards will be made: residential, commercial/industrial, and educational/governmental. At the discretion of the judging committee, additional categories may be added during a competition year to accommodate systems that cannot be properly classified into one of the three categories.

One winner will be chosen from each category each year (see the **Judging** section, below). Winners will be chosen within one month (before January 31 of the following year) after the submittal deadline of December 31. Winners will be notified by e-mail and by regular mail and will also be announced on the TWDB's Rainwater Harvesting Web site at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/innovativewater/rainwater/raincatcher/>.

Once an entry has won an award, it cannot be entered again unless substantial changes to the system warrant its consideration as a new and different system. This determination will be at the discretion of the judging committee.

Judging:

At the end of each year of the competition (December 31), all entries received will be placed in the appropriate category and a panel of judges consisting of TWDB staff and outside experts will score each entry 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.

In each category, the individual scores of all judges for an entry will be totaled and a composite total score determined for that entry. The entry with the highest total score in each category will be awarded the Texas Rain Catcher Award in recognition of their contribution to rainwater harvesting.

Entries:

At a minimum, each entry should contain the following information:

- **Award Category in Which Applying:** Please identify the category in which you wish to have your rainwater harvesting system considered. If you fail to provide this information, the judging committee will make the determination.
- **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 print format, the applicant should include color prints of the photographs (minimum size: 4 inches by 6 inches). All photographs submitted for the competition become the property of TWDB, whether selected as a winning entry or not.
- **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 at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/policies.asp>.

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Competition Format

You can submit an entry either electronically via e-mail as a Microsoft Word or PDF document, or by regular mail (print format or on CD or DVD). If submitting by e-mail, please send your entry to iwt@twdb.texas.gov using the subject line, Texas Rain Catcher Award. If submitting by regular mail, please send three (3) copies of the application and the photographs to:

Texas Water Development Board
Attn: Innovative Water Technologies
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231

Entries must be received on or before **December 31**. Late-entries will be considered at the discretion of the judging committee.

Award:

Winners of the Texas Rain Catcher Award will be invited to Austin, Texas, to receive their award during a regular meeting of the TWDB Board in February or March. Winning entries will be displayed on the TWDB Web site for at least two years. Thereafter, they will be available for viewing in the Archives section for a period of five years. The winning entries will also be profiled in TWDB's newsletter.

For More Information Contact:

Texas Water Development Board
Attn: Innovative Water Technologies
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231
Phone: 512-936-0838