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Department of Environmental Protection Joins State Senator Jeffrey Klein and Assembly Member Mark Gjonaj to Distribute Rain Barrels to 200 Homeowners in the Bronx

More Information

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Rain Barrels Collect Precipitation, Reduce Residential Water Bills and Help to Protect the Health of the Bronx River and Westchester Creek

Photos of the Event are Available on [DEP's Flickr Page](#)

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Saturday joined with State Senator Jeffrey Klein and Assembly Member Mark Gjonaj to distribute rain barrels to approximately 200 homeowners in the Norwood, Allerton and Morris Park neighborhoods of the Bronx. The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner's downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. Rain barrels can help reduce a homeowner's water bill as watering lawns and gardens can account for up to 40 percent of an average household's water use during the summer months. They also help to reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the City's sewer system, which helps to protect the health of local waterways, including the Bronx River and Westchester Creek. Over the last several years, DEP has distributed more than 3,800 rain barrels to New York

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City homeowners. Saturday's event was held at P.S. 97, located at 137 Mace Avenue in the Bronx, and the rain barrels were provided free of charge.

"Collecting rain water and then using it to water lawns and gardens is the right thing to do for our environment and will also help residents reduce their water bill," said **DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd**. "By collecting water that would otherwise end up in the sewer system, Bronx residents are also helping to improve the health of the Bronx River and Westchester Creek."

"Saturday's rain barrel giveaway will help our Bronx residents conserve water and also save money. As part of New York City's Green Infrastructure Plan, by collecting and recycling the storm water runoff from rooftops, homeowners will help will protect New York's water ways, and can then use the collected water for their lawns or other outdoor chores," said **NY State Senator Klein**. "I want to thank Assemblyman Gjonaj and the Department of Environmental Protection for partnering with me on this common sense solution. This program is good for homeowners and good for our city."

"This year, I am happy to partner with Senator Jeff Klein and the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of providing our communities with a Rain Barrel Giveaway Program," said **NY State Assemblyman Gjonaj**. "It is not only environmentally conscious to have a rain barrel, but it's also cost effective and greatly aids those seeking to reduce their water bills. New York City's water supply is an invaluable, precious resource and we must do all that we can to preserve it. I am grateful for DEP's contribution and I look forward to working together on all environmental issues that affect our community."

DEP's Rain Barrel Giveaway Program is part of New York City's Green Infrastructure Plan that aims to capture stormwater before it can ever enter the sewer system and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows into local waterways. DEP has committed to invest \$2.4 billion in green infrastructure projects as well as other source controls, such as rain barrels, to significantly reduce combined sewer overflows by 2030.

The rain barrel program also builds upon DEP's efforts to conserve water as part of a \$1.5 billion initiative to ensure clean, reliable, and safe drinking water for more than nine million New Yorkers for decades to come. As part of this initiative, DEP has begun a project to repair leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct that supplies roughly half of the city's daily drinking water. In order to complete these repairs to the Aqueduct, the tunnel must be temporarily shut down in 2022. Ahead of the planned shutdown, DEP aims to reduce citywide water consumption by five percent.

In addition to encouraging homeowners to conserve water, DEP is installing activation buttons on spray showers at 400 playgrounds around the city that will save 1.5 million gallons of water a day during the summer months. Work is also underway to install new, high efficiency fixtures in the bathrooms of 500 City schools to reduce water consumption by nearly 4 million gallons each school day. And, DEP has partnered with hotels, restaurants and hospitals across the city to reduce water use at these facilities by five percent annually.

Installation of rain barrels is easy and they require little maintenance. Each homeowner who received a rain barrel on Saturday was provided with an installation kit and instructions. Rain barrels should only be used for non-potable purposes, such as gardening, and must be disconnected from the downspout during the winter months to avoid freezing.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of water each day to more than nine million residents, including eight million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,500 miles of sewer lines and 96 pump stations take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program, with nearly \$14 billion in

investments planned over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. This capital program is responsible for critical projects like City Water Tunnel No. 3; the Staten Island Bluebelt program, an ecologically sound and cost-effective stormwater management system; the city’s Watershed Protection Program, which protects sensitive lands upstate near the city’s reservoirs in order to maintain their high water quality; and the installation of more than 820,000 Automated Meter Reading devices, which will allow customers to track their daily water use, more easily manage their accounts and be alerted to potential leaks on their properties. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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