



Agenda Memo

Crest Hill, IL

Meeting Date: April 24, 2023
Submitter: Blaine Kline, Assistant Director of Public Works
Department: Public Works
Agenda Item: 2023 (FY24) Rain Barrel & Composter Program

Summary: The 2023 (FY24) Rain Barrel and Composter program is now available for purchase via our partnership with The Conservation Foundation and Upcycle Products. The link to the purchase website is <https://upcycle-products.com/il-programs/crst/> New this year in addition to the rain barrels we have added composters to the program.

Residents may submit an order online and Public Works staff will deliver them to the residents bi-weekly once received from Upcycle products. Reminder that The City has provided a subsidy for both the rain barrels and composters, limit 50 composters and 100 rain barrels in the amount of \$24.50 for rain barrels and \$25.50 for composters. Once 100 rain barrels and 50 composters are sold the subsidy will be removed. The resident cost is \$40.00 for rain barrels after the subsidy and \$50.00 for a stationary composter or \$140.00 for a tumbling composter after the subsidy.

Harvesting rain to capture stormwater is easy and can help conserve water usage around the home. About 40 percent of total household water use during the summer months is for watering lawns and gardens.

Rain barrels are large containers that capture stormwater that would otherwise be lost as runoff from roofs. The 55-gallon rain barrels sold by The Conservation Foundation are modern food-grade barrels and are sealed, safe around children, and insect resistant. They are repurposed, recycled, and recyclable and come equipped with spigots, screens to prevent mosquito breeding, and overflow valves.

Setup is easy, diverting water from your downspout to fill the rain barrel. A hose spigot on the front makes the water easy to access and use for watering flowers and gardens, or washing cars, windows, and even pets.

When we compost our kitchen scraps and yard waste, we reduce the amount of material going to the landfills and instead return nutrients to the soil. The many benefits of composting include reducing

the amount of material going to landfills and adding organic matter to our garden's beds. This improves soil structure and texture, increases the soil's ability to hold both water and air, improves soil fertility, and stimulates healthy root development in plants. And it saves you money, so you don't have to buy chemical fertilizers!

The Conservation Foundation is one of the region's oldest and largest not-for-profit land and watershed conservation organizations, with more than 4,000 members. Founded in 1972, The Conservation Foundation has helped preserve more than 35,000 acres of open space, restored, and cleaned miles of rivers and streams, and educated thousands of kids by engaging them in nature and the outdoors.

The Conservation Foundations mission is to improve the health of communities by preserving and restoring natural areas and open space, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment. Work is focused in DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and Will Counties to preserve and restore nature in your neighborhood.

By partnering with The Conservation Foundation, we can offer rain barrels at a discounted rate with a portion of the proceeds benefiting The Conservation Foundation

Recommended Council Action: N/A

Financial Impact:

Funding Source: Water/Sewer

Budgeted Amount: \$5,000

Cost: Max \$3725 if all 150 subsidies are used.

Attachments:

Attached are stock pictures of the rain barrel and both a stationary and tumbling composter. Rain barrels are available in black, gray, and terra cotta. Composters are available in black.

