



THE GREAT AMERICAN RAIN BARREL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BELLINGHAM, MA — Feb 27th, 2025

Another Year of Record Flooding and Drought

“In recent months, we’ve seen droughts, flooding, and wildfire smoke across our region. The climate crisis is very much here.”

EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper

The current climate crisis has led to increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions. The fourth driest summer was in 2022; the fourth wettest summer in 2021; the second wettest on record in Boston was in 2023, with 20 inches of rain in three months. Heavy rain seems to be coming more often, and Massachusetts towns and cities are struggling to handle all the water. On August 8, 2024, more than six inches of rain fell on parts of Massachusetts. Drivers were stranded in their cars. Heavy rain sent bacteria-laden stormwater into the ocean and many of our beaches had to close.

In contrast to all this rain, in September, Boston had 22 days without anything more than trace amounts of rain, which is the tenth-longest dry streak in the city’s history — and the longest since 1999. As climate change continues to cause rising temperatures, the threat of severe drought will become more real. There is also an increasing concern about diminishing water availability. As heat records soar, water scarcity is inevitable.

“This is the world we now live in. Every day we see weather that we haven’t seen before. Things are happening that people haven’t dealt with before.”

Governor Maura Healy

Let’s Get Proactive and Be Part of the Solution

Educating and encouraging residents to waste less water by using a rain barrel helps them feel like they a part of the solution. During severe droughts, rain barrels can provide an additional source of water. Rain barrels collect runoff from roofs and gutters, preventing water from reaching impervious surfaces that often channel it into local streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and marine waters, contributing to pollution. By capturing and using rainwater, residents can help reduce pollution, minimize erosion, and support the health of local watersheds. A rain barrel



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can also decrease energy consumption and greenhouse emissions at water treatment plants which is crucial to fighting climate change.

Let's Save Every Drop of Water

Rainwater is “soft,” — free from minerals and chemicals such as chlorine, fluoride, and calcium often present in municipal water. Rainwater is considered the perfect choice for watering plants or washing cars and windows. According to the US EPA, 30% of daily water use is outdoors. The EPA also states that rain barrels could save the average homeowner 1300 gallons of water annually and decrease water bills by as much as 40%. A 500 square foot roof can fill a properly installed 50-gallon rain barrel in approximately one hour. One full rain barrel will water a 200-square-foot garden.

To find out more about the barrels and to participate in The Great American Rain Barrel Program, please visit: www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/ and select your town.

Barrels are offered for \$89. Bellingham is offering an additional \$20 off the first 100 barrels sold with the coupon code BELL25. Barrels will be available for pick up on Thursday April 10th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm, at the Bellingham Administrative Offices 215 Depot St, Bellingham, MA 02019. Deadline for purchase is March 30th, Midnight

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About the Great American Rain Barrel

The Great American Rain Barrel is a local food-import company that has been repurposing food grade shipping drums into Rain Barrels since 1988. The Great American Rain Barrel Co. has been an approved vendor by the MASS DEP since 2010.

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