

## Rain water Harvesting- Need of an Hour

Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rain water in the natural resources or artificially designed resources to prevent water runoff and fulfil the lack of water in future. The quantity of water harvesting is affected by the number of factors like frequency of rainfall, quantity of rainfall, way of collecting rain water, and size of resources to collect water. The ground water level is getting depleted day by day due to various reasons like deforestation and ecological imbalance. Increasing level of urbanization and industrialization constantly increases the demand of water supply especially in the urban areas. It results in the overuse of ground water and thus going low level. The risk of water scarcity in the future has been increased to a great extent and can be life threatening if some effective solutions are not followed.

Water harvesting is very helpful and fulfil various need like recharging the ground water level, reduces electricity bill spend in supplying water and provide easy water supply anytime when required. It is estimated that 1 meter rise in the water level saves around 0.4 KWH of electricity.

### Rain Water Harvesting as a Government Policy

The Government has been promoting the adoption of 'Rainwater harvesting' as a mass movement. 'Rainwater Harvesting' is also an important component for achieving the goals of 'Water Security', 'Shelter Security' and 'Ecological Security' enunciated in the Hon'ble Chief Minister's 15 Point programme. Universal adoption of Rainwater Harvesting by government departments, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and people would go a long way in improving the ground water levels in the states as well as in meeting the immediate requirements of the people for fresh water. Considerable success has been achieved in propagating the beneficial effects of Rainwater Harvesting and the Government departments, NGOs, industries and individuals are now involved in this task of Rainwater Harvesting. Several government departments have issued separate guidelines for the implementation of Rainwater Harvesting by their respective departments. It is, therefore, considered necessary, at this stage, to issue comprehensive guidelines to coordinate the activities of various agencies involved in Rainwater Harvesting to maximize the benefits and bring about synergy.



## Legislative Measures:

1. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, all Municipal corporations, Municipalities, Towns Panchayats and the Directorate of town and Country planning shall approve by layout plans, building plans, etc., and leases of all building plans for new buildings only after confirming the inclusion of provision of Rainwater Harvesting structure in the proposed plans.
2. In the case of existing buildings efforts should be made by local body authorities to ensure that Rainwater Harvesting structures are put up in the buildings at the earliest.
3. No building or structure with roof shall be given permission for construction in the state, henceforth, without adequate provision for Rainwater Harvesting.
4. Water connection and Sewer connection shall not be given to any building which does not have Rainwater Harvesting structure.
5. Building that does not provide for Rainwater Harvesting either in urban or rural areas shall not be hereafter assessed to property tax.
6. Huts and thatched structures put up by families living below the poverty line shall be exempted from the above provisions.

**Sources:**

<http://www.indiacelebrating.com/essay/rain-water-harvesting-essay/https://www.legalindia.com/rainwater-harvesting-as-governments-public-policy-decision/>

**Image Source:** <http://thehitavada.com/Encyc/2016/4/23/Rainwater-harvesting--Small-hamlet-sets-big-example-worth-emulating.aspx>