

Media release

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Grants closing for Rain Garden 500 applications

Community groups across the Adelaide metropolitan area are being encouraged to apply for funding as part of the Rain Garden 500 grants program before applications for grants close this week.

Rain gardens are water sensitive urban design features that allow local communities to contribute to improved stormwater quality, and ultimately the health of our coastal water, by taking action at the local level.

EPA Director Science and Information Keith Baldry said the purpose of a rain garden is to improve the quality of stormwater from our streets and other surfaces such as car parks, before it travels to our local creeks and the sea.

“Collectively rain gardens and other stormwater improvement features such as wetlands, will contribute towards less stormwater going out to sea and improved water quality in Adelaide’s urban waterways and coastal waters.

“This will reduce pollution, and contribute to improving seagrass health benefitting our marine environment and keeping our beach water cleaner,” Mr Baldry said.

The program is in its second year and is part of the Catchment to Coast Project funded through the Australian Government National Landcare Program.

Stormwater that contains high loads of nutrients and sediments has been found to impact on seagrass health, water quality and sediment stability along the Adelaide Coastline, and also impacts on recreational experiences and aesthetic values of the Adelaide coast.

“Rain Garden 500 is one way people can be involved in improving water quality in our catchments and at the coast,” Mr Baldry said.

Groups eligible to apply include local councils, community groups, schools, sports clubs, or a group of motivated individuals in metropolitan Adelaide.

“Any group or individual who is interested in building a rain garden in a community space can apply for a grant through the Rain Garden 500 program, or work with their local council to install them in their street,” Mr Baldry said.

Applications for the current round of funding will close at **5pm on Wednesday 21 June, 2017**.

This will be the final time grants will be provided for Rain Garden 500, ending the three-year grant program.

Further information, guidelines and the applications for the Rain Garden 500 project are available from the EPA and Water Sensitive SA websites.

For further information please contact EPA Media: 0439 137 641 and epamedia@sa.gov.au