

Media release

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Grants open for Rain Garden applications

Community groups across the Adelaide metropolitan area are being encouraged to apply for funding as part the Rain Garden 500 grants program.

The program, which is in its second year and is part of the Catchment to Coast Project and is funded through the Australian Government National Landcare Programme, allows local communities to contribute to improved stormwater quality and ultimately seagrass health by taking action at the local level.

EPA Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan said rain gardens are water sensitive urban design features that may be used to better manage stormwater.

“The purpose of a rain garden is to improve the quality of stormwater from our streets and other hard 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, installed in catchments 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,” he said.

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. The program also supports the Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan,” Mr Dolan said.

Groups eligible to apply include local councils, community groups, schools, sports clubs, or a group of motivated individuals can apply for funding to build a rain garden in the Adelaide metropolitan.

“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 Dolan said.

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

Expressions of Interest are encouraged by May 31 to ensure applicants are informed about upcoming training and information on the Rain Garden 500 project.

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 website and Water Sensitive SA websites.

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