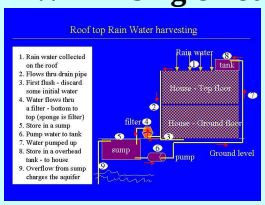
Urban installations Of Rainwater harvesting

RWH in single houses



Rain falling on the roof and the sides of the building is collected, filtered and charged. For a house in a metro city, the only additional investment is the installation of PVC pipes. (about Rs 2000) Display board on the right was used during the campaign in Chennai.

Flat complexes (apartments)

"We installed RWH last year before the monsoon. It has charged the water table now. We have not purchased any water this year" Building association member of a flat complex in Kotturpuram, a suburb of Chennai.

RWH in the hostel sector of IIT Madras

Roof rain water from 12 hostels are diverted to 4 large wells and recharges the underground. Months after the rainy season, water is available at these wells.

Desilting an urban water tank

The tank in Pamal in Chennai used to collect run off sewage from the neighbouring houses. Mangalam Balasubramanian, a Rotarian and a local resident, came forward to bring the community together, clean the tank, remove all the rubbish and let fresh rain water to collect.

Temple tank desilting

•There are many temple tanks in the city of Chennai. They act as large storage tanks, percolating rain water and charging the water table. This allows thousands of people living around the tank to draw water from their wells

•Desilting a temple tank costs between Rs 5 and 10 lakhs and is being done by the Rotary Club of Chennai.

RWH in factories and buildings

Many industrial units like Ashok Leyland (top), Asian Paints (bottom), Escorts, TVS have installed RWH to meet their drinking water needs as well as their industrial processing needs. All units in the State of Tamil Nadu have installed RWH, thanks to the Government ordinance.

Rain centers in Chennai (L), Meerut(R), Trichur have played a key role in educating the public. These centers have actual RWH installations the public can see.

RWH unit costs -starting estimates (summer of 2001)

•Actual costs will depend upon specific RWH design, size of the facility / house and percent of rain water harvested and stored. Given below are a few unit costs.

•Sump : 12,000 litre sump will cost about Rs 50,000 or about Rs 3.50 per litre for large sumps.

•Drain pipes cost around Rs 15 to Rs 30 per running foot

•Bends and elbows around Rs 20 to Rs 75 per piece

•Filter chamber 2'x2'x2' with pebbles and sand = Rs 1,500

•10' deep percolation pit with sand, pebbles, air vent and a perforated slab on the top = Rs 2,500

•Add labor costs, transportation and supervision = 5%

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