

RIVERSMART HOMES

WHAT IS RIVERSMART HOMES?

RiverSmart Homes is a District-wide program offering incentives to homeowners to reduce stormwater runoff from their properties. Homeowners receive a stormwater audit to determine their eligibility for financial and technical assistance to install one or more of the following features: rain barrels, shade trees, rain gardens, BayScaping (native planting), permeable pavers and re-vegetation. This program is housed in the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE).

STORMWATER RUNOFF AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows off impervious surfaces (rooftops, parking lots, patios, etc.) to streams, picking up pollutants such as debris, chemicals, oils, lawn fertilizer, and bacteria from pet waste from roadways and driveways.

BENEFITS OF RIVERSMART HOMES

To the homeowner

- Beautify your property
- Save on your utility bills
- Improved yard drainage

To the District

- Improves the quality of local streams and waterways
- Helps minimize use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer
- Stabilizes soils to prevent erosion

WANT TO BECOME A RIVERSMART HOMEOWNER?

1. Apply by calling (202) 535-2252 or by completing an online application at doee.dc.gov/service/get-riversmart
2. Have a site audit conducted to assess what features are appropriate for your property
3. Let DOEE know what features from your audit you want installed
4. Work with DOEE partners to have your features installed
5. Maintain and enjoy your features



RIVERSMART HOMES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Am I eligible for the RiverSmart Homes program?

All residential homes in the District that have four units or less are eligible to participate. Renters who have permission from their landlord are eligible to apply for the program as well. Some homes that have already participated in the program may not be eligible for additional funding.

Is becoming a RiverSmart Home going to cost me money?

Homeowners make a co-payment for each of the following RiverSmart Homes features installed on their properties (DOEE subsidizes the rest of the cost). The co-payments are as follows:

- Rain barrels = \$50 or \$70 per rain barrel, depending on rain barrel type (limit two)
- Shade trees = \$0 per shade tree (no limit)
- Rain gardens = \$100 per 50 sq. ft. of rain garden (limit two depending on audit recommendation)
- BayScaping = \$100 per 120 sq. ft. of BayScaping (limit two depending on audit recommendation)
- DOEE provides a rebate of up to \$10/sq.ft. for removing and replacing impervious surface with permeable pavers and/or a \$5/sq.ft. rebate for removing and replacing impervious surface with vegetation. Only properties within the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Ward 7, and Ward 8 are eligible for this rebate. For eligible properties, there is a rebate limit of \$4,000.

How and when do I make a co-payment for my RiverSmart Home feature?

Homeowners make co-payments directly to the nonprofit partner or contractor coordinating the installation of your RiverSmart Home feature. The timeline for these co-payments will vary by feature.

STEPS TO BECOMING A RIVERSMART HOMEOWNER

