

# 2016 EARTH DAY RAIN BARREL PAINTING CONTEST

## Rain Barrels – Every Drop Counts!

Rain water is a resource that benefits **ALL OF US**. The Erie County Department of Environment & Planning (ECDEP) is proud to invite all schools in Erie and Niagara counties to participate in a rain barrel painting contest promoting the theme, *“Rain Barrels – Every Drop Counts!”* Only a limited number of rain barrels are available, so register today!

### What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel collects and stores rain water from your roof that would otherwise flow across lawns, driveways, roads and parking lots – picking up dirt, oil, fertilizers, and other chemicals along the way before emptying into storm drains or streams. The contest rain barrels are converted from 35-gallon syrup concentrate drums donated by the *Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Buffalo, Inc.*

### Our Proud Sponsors ....

**Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Buffalo, Inc.**

**Buffalo Sabres Green Team**

Erie County Department of Environment & Planning

Western New York Stormwater Coalition

Erie County Water Quality Committee

### Why use a rain barrel?

Contaminated stormwater runoff is the #1 cause of pollution in our waterways. Rain barrels help reduce the volume of runoff, and therefore its potential to convey pollutants. Register your students today and help them learn more about how to protect water quality in our rivers, streams and lakes.

### Everyone is a Winner!

- Three winning rain barrel designs will receive prizes from the *Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Buffalo, Inc.* and the *Buffalo Sabres Green Team*
- *Buffalo Sabres Green Team* prize pack for students that paint the rain barrels.
- Each school/group has the opportunity to keep their rain barrel and help conserve water.
- Rain barrels may also be used for school fundraising or donated to a community group for public education.
- All teams will receive a certificate of participation.

## CONTEST GUIDELINES

### Design:

Paint your rain barrel according to the theme, *“Rain Barrels – Every Drop Counts!”*

- Painted rain barrels will be judged according to how well the design fits the theme, creativity, and neatness.
- **You will need to submit photographs of the front and back of your finished rain barrel for judging.**

### Materials:

You will be provided with a 35-gallon syrup barrel from the *Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Buffalo, Inc.* that has been retrofitted as a rain barrel, and one can of paint primer.

- You will need to provide brushes, various colors of acrylic paints for your design, and a clear topcoat.
- You will also be responsible for installing, maintaining, and winterizing the rain barrel. Detailed instructions will be provided.
- **Barrels must have a clear topcoat applied to be eligible for prizes. The topcoat will prevent the paint from chipping and fading.**

**Deadline: PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS March 2, 2016** (A photo release form required if any students are in photos)

**Note:** Judges may visit your school to see the rain barrel in person. Winners will have their painted rain barrel on display during April, 2016 at an Earth Day Event. All participating students and teachers are invited to attend. Event details will follow registration.

For more information contact: **Kristen C. Guadagno, Erie County DEP at**

**[Kristen.Guadagno@erie.gov](mailto:Kristen.Guadagno@erie.gov) or (716) 858-6021**

Registration materials, forms and other contest information can be found online at

<http://www2.erie.gov/environment/index.php?q=earth-day-rain-barrel-painting-contest>