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Rainwater Recovery, Inc. Completes 39-System Rainwater Harvesting Project Under DCR and EPA Grant

Wilmington, MA – May 15, 2006 – Rainwater Recovery Inc. has completed the delivery and commissioning of 39 rainwater harvesting systems at residences in Wilmington, Massachusetts. The systems, which capture roof run-off and store it for outdoor water use, were provided under a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Targeted Watershed grant program being managed and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR).

The harvesting systems consist of either a 200 or 800 gallon storage tank connected to one of the household's existing roof downspouts. They deliver rainwater through a standard hose spigot attached to the storage tank at pressures equivalent to typical house pressure, allowing full use of garden hoses and sprinklers for outdoor water use.

The project, under the supervision of DCR project manager Sara Cohen, seeks to measure the water conservation impact of replacing potable water with rainwater for outdoor use. It also serves to raise awareness and promote

smarter choices regarding water sources and use. The rainwater harvesting project is one of nine demonstration projects being funded by the EPA grant to study ways to restore a healthy volume of flow to the Ipswich River. All nine of the demonstration projects focus on either recharging stormwater to groundwater or reducing the amount of pumping from groundwater sources. As groundwater provides the dry-weather flow for rivers and streams, more water in the groundwater system means healthier streamflows during dry periods. Because roof runoff can also be a source of replenishment to groundwater stores, rainwater harvesting techniques are most environmentally protective when combined with landscaping techniques that minimize the water requirements of the plantings.

“Wilmington residents have shown substantial interest in the rainwater harvesting project,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “The combination of people wanting to do what’s right for the Ipswich River and Wilmington’s partial ban on the use of public drinking water for irrigation purposes both contributed to this project’s success, and in turn, will help raise the visibility of more responsible water use.”

“We are very excited to be able to provide the design and installation of these systems for the program – since they work not only as a water saving device but also as an educational tool for the families that are participating in the grant”, said Philip Reidy, a Principal at Rainwater Recovery, Inc.

Rainwater Recovery Inc. is a full-service design/build company which provides innovative, cost-effective solutions to site and water supply management challenges. The company works with commercial, institutional, industrial and residential owners, developers and design professionals to meet low-impact and sustainable development goals and requirements through application of progressive design, engineering, construction and on-going inspection and maintenance services. The company was established in 2003 and is based in

Waltham, Massachusetts. More information and photos of the systems can be found at www.rainwaterrecovery.com.

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