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## State creates 'Smart Guides' for water conservation, rainwater harvesting

(Salem) – The Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division (BCD) has released two guides that focus on the promotion of green building in Oregon.

Called "Oregon Smart Guides," they provide information on rainwater harvesting and water conservation systems. The guides are the first two in a series that will help consumers understand their options when building and renovating.

The rainwater-harvesting guide describes the method allowing rainwater collection from roofs to be used for gardens, flushing toilets, washing clothes, and in heating and air conditioning units. The water conservation systems guide explains the method for reusing wastewater (commonly referred too as gray water) for flushing toilets.

The guides are available to download at [http://bcd.oregon.gov/pdf/smart\\_guides.html](http://bcd.oregon.gov/pdf/smart_guides.html).

These guides are the most recent step in the Building Codes Division's efforts to both provide consumers with helpful information and enhance Oregon's green building efforts.

Other recent green building enhancements include:

- Setting statewide standards for designing and installing electric vehicle charging stations. BCD's involvement with charging stations began when Portland General Electric asked for help with a pilot program to develop and install stations in Portland and Salem. The division continues to work on this issue with the Oregon Department of Transportation.
- Creating a new code supporting sustainability by keeping existing buildings safe and usable to the public. The code recognizes older construction methods and provides greater flexibility when remodeling historic and existing buildings.
- Adding new energy-efficiency provisions to the building code affecting residential building.
- Increasing the number of building departments participating in the "Quick Permits" e-permitting Web site ([BuildingPermits.oregon.gov](http://BuildingPermits.oregon.gov)). This allows contractors more opportunities to purchase over-the-counter, non plan-review electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits without leaving their home or office; saving them time, money, and gas.

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The Building Codes Division provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon. For more information, visit [www.bcd.oregon.gov](http://www.bcd.oregon.gov).

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov).