



OLIVIA CHOW MAYOR

June 2, 2026

Expanding the Rain Barrel Program

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

As part of the 2026 Budget I included funding for a new program that offers residents the opportunity to purchase a rain barrel at extremely low cost. Rain barrels reduce stormwater runoff and reduce water consumption, particularly in the summer, and this program makes them affordable for homeowners.

The program has proved extremely popular, with the initial allocation **selling out in just 9 hours**. Many inquiries have been received about the possibility of additional barrels, showing that there is additional demand from residents for an expansion.

This is part of a suite of initiatives in the 2026 Budget that made life more affordable for homeowners by helping them with the cost of upgrading their homes to be more energy efficient and resilient.

This motion recommends that we purchase another order of rain barrels to meet the demand from residents. It also recommends a change to the program to subsidize a maximum of one barrel per household instead of two to allow more residents to access the program.

Recommendation:

1. City Council, on a one-time basis, increase the 2026 Operating Budget for Environment, Climate and Forestry by \$238,249 gross and \$0 net, fully funded by a recovery from Toronto Water, to increase product availability within the 2026 pilot Program to Subsidize Rain Barrels for Collecting Stormwater on Private Property.
2. City Council amend the pilot Program to Subsidize Rain Barrels for Collecting Stormwater on Private Property adopted in IE24.11 to limit the number of rain barrels to one per eligible address and to keep the cost to residents consistent throughout the pilot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olivia Chow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto