

Frequently Asked Questions

Grow your business with RainCity Partnerships!

The demand for businesses specializing in Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) is quickly growing in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. The RainCity Partnerships program is funded by Seattle Public Utilities and will invest millions of dollars in new GSI projects over the next few years. The RainCity team is eager to connect with and support women- and minority-owned businesses in King County who are interested in being part of this initiative. CIS, a private company that manages RainCity, has created a contracting and mentorship program to help small, diverse businesses successfully compete for RainCity and other GSI-related work.

? Why should I get involved in the RainCity WMBE Inclusion Program?

Over the next four years, the RainCity program will:

- Allocate \$15 million to build new GSI throughout Seattle.
- Direct \$4+ million of funding to women- and minority-owned businesses.

Joining the RainCity program is an opportunity to grow your business, network with industry professionals, and build or expand your company's capabilities by working on important and well resourced GSI projects, all at no cost to you.

? What is the RainCity mentorship program and why should I get involved?

RainCity is offering a free mentorship program designed to help women- and minority-owned businesses grow or enter the GSI market. Our goal is to empower small and diverse businesses to successfully compete for RainCity projects and beyond with personalized support tailored to each business's unique needs and goals. Starting in January 2025, the program may include:

- RainCity project bidding support
- Monthly cohort sessions
- Training workshops
- Professional coaching
- Business assessment
- Business advocacy
- Business plan development support
- Ongoing support with awarded GSI projects
- Industry guidance on how to competitively bid on GSI work
- All at no cost to you



What type of businesses can participate in the RainCity WMBE Inclusion and Mentorship Program?

Women- and minority-owned businesses are greatly underrepresented in the green economy and GSI industry. We want to help change that. If you have a local, women- or minority-owned business capable or interested in GSI-related work, we want to support you!

The RainCity program is looking to work with businesses that specialize in landscaping, design and engineering, erosion and sediment control, earthwork, tree planting, utility installation, native plants, plumbing, and other specialties related to GSI construction.

Below is a brief summary of services needed and an extended list of NAICS codes to determine if your business might be a good fit.

- **Concrete**

- 237310 Concrete paving (i.e., highway, road, street, public sidewalk)
- 238110 Concrete finishing

- **Excavation**

- 238910 Excavation contractors
- 238910 Foundation digging (i.e., excavation)

- **Curb + Gutter/Concrete**

- 238990 Curb and gutter construction, residential and commercial driveway and parking area, concrete
- 23811 Poured concrete foundation and structure contractors
- 238910 Site preparation contractors

- **Landscaping**

- 5413 Architectural, engineering, and related services
- 541320 Landscape architectural services
- 561730 Landscaping services
- 115112 Soil preparation, planting, and cultivating

- **Demolition**

- 238910 Site preparation contractors
- 562910 Remediation services

- **Utilities**

- 221 Utilities
- 237 Heavy and civil engineering construction
- 2371 Utility system construction
- 237110 Water and sewer line and related structures construction
- 2213 Water, sewage and other systems
- 221310 Water supply and irrigation systems
- 237110 Storm sewer construction



Do I have to be a certified Women- and/or Minority -owned Business Enterprise to get involved?

No. It is not necessary to be a certified women- and/or minority-owned business enterprise (WMBE) to be a part of the program. Being a certified WMBE can have many advantages for a company. If you are interested and need assistance, our team can work with you to identify any certification requirements and address them as needed.



How is RainCity different from RainWise?

RainCity will fund the design and construction of GSI on private, non-single-family residential parcels, in eligible neighborhoods throughout Seattle.

RainWise is a Seattle rebate program that helps private property owners install cisterns and rain gardens. This helps reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs), helps prevent flooding, adds attractive landscaping, and can provide water for summer irrigation. RainWise projects capture rainwater that falls on building roof areas up to 5,000 square feet. Rebates are available in eligible Seattle neighborhoods for work performed by an approved RainWise contractor. Learn more at <https://700milliongallons.org/rainwise/>



How can I stay informed and involved?



Attend our upcoming information session on November 14 and talk with program staff.



Sign up for email updates to be notified when bidding opportunities become available.

