



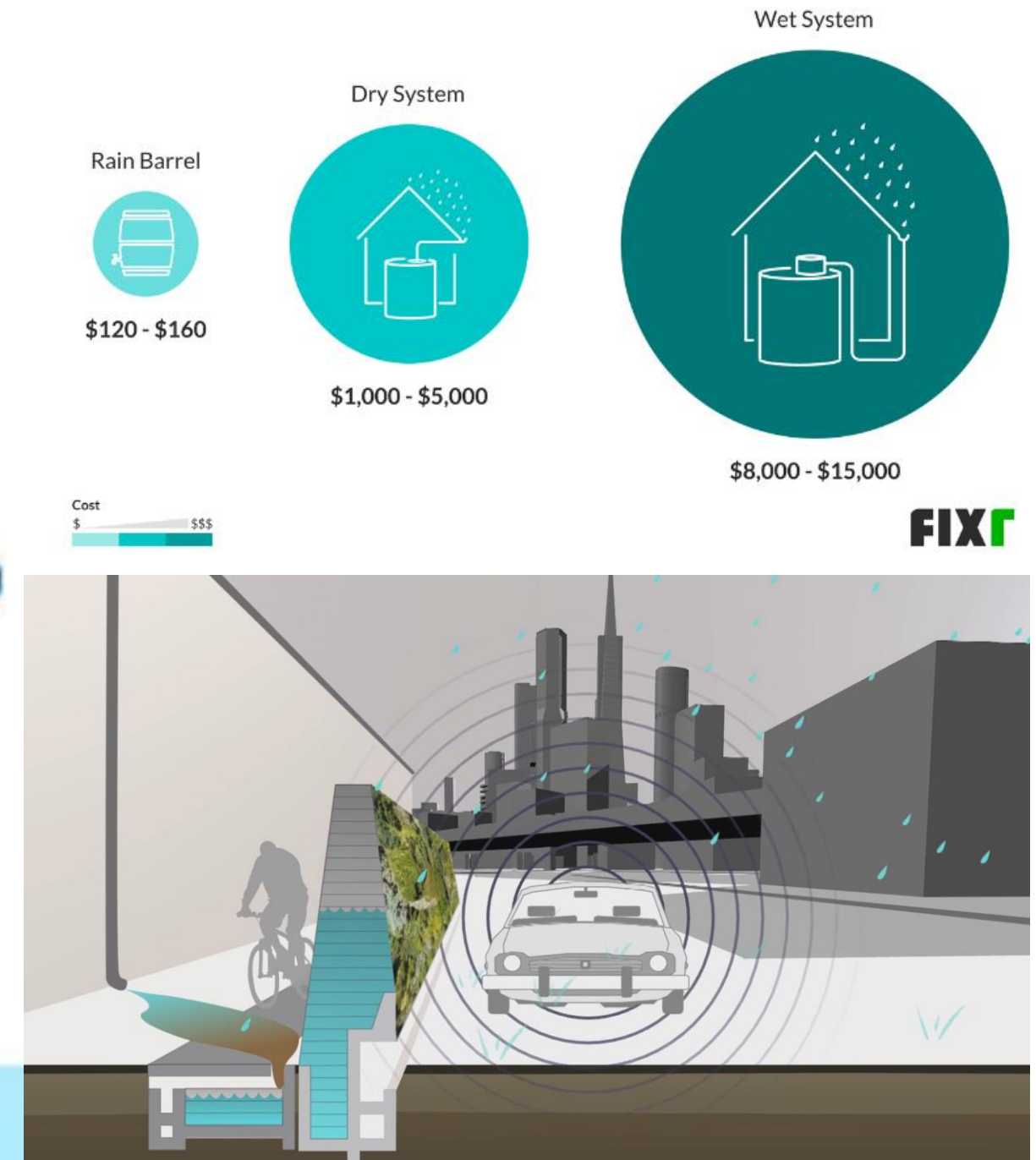
RAINWATER HARVESTING

The Future of Water Conservation



WATER IS PRECIOUS
SAVE IT

DO YOU HARVEST RAINWATER?



Building Water Security

Promoting Homeowner/Developer Driven Rainwater Catchment Infrastructure on the North Shore



WHAT IS IT?

A policy initiative to develop rainwater catchment infrastructure across the North Shore. The initiative will consist of a combination of tax rebates and permit requirements which will help to ensure water security on the North Shore into the future. Rainwater harvesting is a method of collecting the run-off from a structure or other impervious surface to store for later use. Traditionally, this involves harvesting the rain from a roof. The rain will collect in gutters that channel the water into downspouts and then into a storage vessel. Rainwater collection systems can be as simple as collecting rain in a rain barrel, or as elaborate as harvesting rainwater into large cisterns to supply your entire household demand.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

As the impacts of climate change continue to cause increased drought conditions in the Lower Mainland, it is critical that North Shore municipalities develop an action plan to ensure water security for the region. As the population of the North Shore is rapidly increasing, it is important that policy adaptations take place as soon as possible to avoid a worst-case scenario such as the stage four water restrictions that occurred on the Sunshine Coast earlier this year.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Homeowners will be offered a onetime tax rebate against property taxes when they install a rainwater catchment system.
- Rebate amounts will be staggered based on the capacity of the system installed.
- Beginning in 2024, all new builds will require a rainwater catchment system as part of their stormwater management plan to obtain permits.
- This model ensures that the cost of infrastructure falls on developers and homeowners, while also benefiting renters

OUTCOMES

We examined similar existing programs in the Sunshine Coast Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo where staggered rebate programs are available to homeowners who install rainwater catchment systems. The program in the Regional District of Nanaimo has received so many applications that it has closed for the year as the maximum funding allocation has been reached. In the City of North Vancouver audited statement of operations, year ended 2021, we found that the city spent 10,871,000 CAD in water utility expenses. Installing rainwater harvesting can bring that number down and increase the annual surplus. Currently the city has accumulated surplus of over 633 million dollars. Rebates for homeowners can be provided using this surplus money.

NEXT STEPS

Conducting surveys of homeowners would help identify likely uptake rates for this rebate which would assist the municipality in constructing a budget estimate for this program. Application numbers from the pilot year of the program would be used to construct a firm budget for subsequent years.