

## **Building Water Security Together: Response to Public Feedback on Grenada's Rainwater Harvesting Regulations**

The GREWS Project and Government of Grenada thanks members of the public, stakeholders, and community partners who took the time to review and comment on the proposed Rainwater Harvesting Regulations 2026. Your feedback reflects genuine concern for affordability, fairness, public health, and Grenada's future water security as all voices matter.

At a time when climate change is already affecting rainfall patterns and increasing pressure on our national water supply, rainwater harvesting is not just an environmental initiative; it is a practical, forward-looking step to help households, businesses, and communities become more resilient.

The purpose of these regulations is simple: **to guide the safe collection, storage, and use of rainwater while strengthening Grenada's ability to cope with water scarcity and climate shocks.** They are designed to supplement existing water systems, not replace them.

### **A Modern Framework Built on Consultation**

Although the draft regulations reference the 2002 Act, the framework itself was developed using the **2016 version of the Act** and will be updated in the final version to reflect the most recent amendments.

Key elements, including minimum building size thresholds and storage capacity were determined through stakeholder consultations. The **250 square-foot threshold** was the most widely agreed upon size for regulation. The goal is not to burden homeowners, but to ensure that buildings have **appropriate storage capacity** to support basic needs during water disruptions.

Special consideration is also given to developments such as villas, where individual structures may be small but collectively occupy a large footprint. For new buildings, the Physical Development Authority (PDA) will review rainwater harvesting plans as part of the normal submission process.

Importantly, the regulation includes a **five-year implementation period**, giving homeowners and businesses adequate time to plan, budget, and install systems while allowing authorities to gradually improve monitoring capacity.

## **Fairness at the Core: Exemptions and Graduated Penalties**

We heard concerns about affordability, and we want to be clear: **this regulation is built with compassion and fairness.**

Exemptions are provided for special circumstances, including **financial hardship and limited space availability.** Vulnerable individuals will not be treated unfairly.

Similarly, the fines outlined in the regulation are not fixed punishments. Instead, they provide a **range of penalties**, allowing the courts to determine outcomes based on individual circumstances and financial standing. This approach ensures that **smaller households and businesses are not treated the same as large commercial entities.**

The intention is compliance through education and support, not punishment.

And to clarify:

- **No one will be charged for harvesting rainwater.**
- **No extraction licenses are required.**
- People are encouraged to collect as much rainwater as they safely can.

## **Protecting Public Health While Encouraging Use**

Rainwater harvesting is not new. It has been practiced successfully for generations in places like Carriacou and Petite Martinique, where traditional methods have proven effective over time. These communities are exempt under Regulation 13(6) in recognition of their historical practices.

For Grenada, where formal Rainwater harvesting systems are relatively new, regulations help ensure safety. The framework references **World Health Organization (WHO) standards** for water fit for consumption.

For commercial and industrial use, especially in Carriacou and Petite Martinique, any harvested rainwater intended for human consumption (i.e drinking, cooking) must undergo the same treatment and labelling requirements as water supplied on mainland Grenada.

Ministry of Health officers do not require special equipment to verify rainwater harvesting systems; visual inspections can confirm origin and compliance.

Once installed, system maintenance becomes the responsibility of the building owner, not tenants or users.

If adverse conditions (i.e. post natural disaster) affect a system, use of harvested water should be discontinued until safety is restored.

### **Designed for Flexibility, Safety, and Personal Choice**

Treatment systems, tank size (beyond the minimum), and aesthetics are left largely to homeowner preference, as long as systems are functional and safe.

Safety considerations such as height, location, and potential hazards must be factored into design. Overflow will continue to follow existing water courses, but with added benefits: **increased water availability, reduced erosion, and better flood management.**

Grenada's minimum storage requirement is lower in Carriacou and Petite Martinique due to easier access to water on the mainland. However, homeowners are welcome to install larger systems if they choose, the more collected, the better.

### **Why This Matters Now More Than Ever**

Would we rather wait until taps run dry before acting?

Climate projections point to increasing water stress across the Caribbean. Around the region, and in places like Bermuda, rainwater harvesting regulations have already become standard practice.

This regulation is about **preparing today to avoid hardship tomorrow.**

It is about helping families protect their homes.

It is about ensuring businesses can continue operating during water disruptions.

It is about reducing future costs by investing wisely now.

Every gallon stored today is a buffer against tomorrow's uncertainty.

Building resilience now means fewer emergencies later.

## Looking Ahead

While the regulation itself does not currently include subsidies or fiscal incentives, it leaves room for these to be explored by the relevant ministries in the future.

Educational materials, including brochures on system setup and maintenance, will be made available, alongside resources from initiatives such as the G-CREWS Project. Links to supporting documents and PDA guidance will also be provided to the public.

This regulation is informed by international best practice and tailored to Grenada's unique realities.

## A Shared Responsibility

The Rainwater Harvesting Regulations are not about controlling rainfall, they are about responsibly managing a precious resource.

They aim to strengthen water security, protect public health, and help every household play a part in climate resilience.

Together, we can turn rain into readiness, and uncertainty into preparedness.

For further information on rainwater harvesting systems and maintenance, residents are encouraged to consult local experts and upcoming public resources.

Let us build a safer, more resilient Grenada, one drop at a time. 💧

Links to useful information:

[How to Set Up Your Rainwater Harvesting System at Home – Climate Resilience Portal](#)

[Building Climate Resilient Skills: GNTA and G-CREWS Advance Plumbing Standards in Grenada – Climate Resilience Portal](#)

[Benefits of having a Rainwater Harvesting System](#)

[Uses of Rainwater from Rainwater Harvesting System](#)