

## **Collaborative Rainwater Harvesting at the University of Arizona**

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### **ABSTRACT**

During summer 2006, Parasol, a student club promoting sustainable resource use at the University of Arizona (UA), successfully implemented two rainwater harvesting projects on the UA campus in collaboration with faculty and Facilities Management (FM) staff: one at the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering building, 1130 N. Mountain Avenue, and the other at the Meinel Optical Sciences building, 1630 E. University Boulevard. The sites include educational signage describing the project for the general public, and they will be integral to Tucson's ADEQ stormwater compliance program which requires university participation in stormwater runoff mitigation. In addition, a rainwater harvesting course created by Dr. Jim Riley and Parasol students has recently received curricular approval and will be offered every spring in the Soil, Water and Environmental Science Departments, and in the School of Natural Resources. The yearly class project will fulfill the university's obligation and institutionalize water harvesting within the curriculum. During the 2006-2007 academic year and summer 2007, students are continuing to design and implement rainwater harvesting projects, including at the new UA Visitor's Center. Students are also spearheading a project using GIS software to locate and map important drainage features and rainwater harvesting potential across the entire UA campus. The presentation will explain the projects and discuss the challenges and successes involved in rainwater harvesting at a state university.