

20 April 2015

Less Means More

The Craven County Water Conservation Committee

As part of the Committee's Earth Day events we recognize the Craven-Pamlico Animal Services Center for their innovative use of a rain water collection system. In cooperation with North Carolina State University and with the support of a grant, the Animal Services Facility installed a rain water harvesting system in 2009.

The installation consisted of two (2), 2800 gallon storage tanks, collection piping from the facility roof gutters (4800 square feet), and piping to a pump and distribution system. The design results in the harvesting of 2100 gallons of rain water for every one (1) inch of rain. The water is used to flush the trough that collects animal waste. Additionally, the flushing is scheduled automatically to further optimize water usage. Since installation, the equipment has been maintained by the team and has been very reliable. This is a compliment to the design, installation and maintenance of the equipment.

Before the project was installed, the Animal Services Facility used potable water for this purpose. The facility reduced the use of potable water by over 200,000 gallons per year. This totals in excess of one million gallons of potable water saved since installation.

The Craven County installation was documented in the Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA), along with three others in North Carolina. A quote from the paper: "Staff members at the Craven County Animal shelter highly value the rain water harvesting system and view it as a contribution to their environmental stewardship, another benefit that cannot be monetarily quantified."

Congratulations to the team at the Craven-Pamlico Animal Services Center, which is a Division of the Craven County Health Department.