

From: Debbie
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 5:10 PM
To: Gemela McClendon <Gemela.McClendon@Phila.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony for Water Rates Board Hearing

My name is Deborah Rudman and for over a decade, my husband Jim Brossy and I have been participating in the City Harvest program with our Community Garden, growing and donating organic produce to Philadelphia citizens in need of healthy food.

Currently we are in our second year of starting a new garden in Kensington for the same purpose at 3023 Collins St. (19134).

In both gardens, we have been vigilant about collecting rainwater to keep the garden growing, not only because it is healthy for the plants and the environment but also to support the diligent efforts of the Water Department for watershed management. It is also much less expensive than running a hose from our house & paying for City Water on our residential account.

We also built a green roof on our property and we have a down spout running directly to it to alleviate the burden on the sewer system .

We had previously signed up for the Green City Streets program and the representative inspecting our property said we were already doing everything within our power to support better watershed management.

My husband had been inquiring with the Water Dept. about the possibility of getting an exemption from the stormwater fee since we were taking the initiative to do our part but was told that was only available for businesses.

This additional cost on our water bill is a great burden to us and it does not seem fair since we are working very hard to contribute to the improvement and sustainability of Philadelphia's water system.

Thanks for your time and consideration to exempt Community Gardens from the stormwater fee as it takes dedicated volunteer time to keep these gardens growing. The value of this work toward the goals of the City's sustainable watershed management should be acknowledged and supported in this way.

Deborah Rudman
Phila PA 19123