

Collaboration: Bringing Pieces Together

Strategies for using the built environment as a stormwater management solution.

TEAMWORK

Teamwork Is Key—Many Agencies Have Roles In Stormwater Management.

Planning:

- Ensure that development regulations do not lead to creation of excessive impervious cover (e.g., parking standards, building setbacks, restrictions on mixed-use and density). Protect trees and open space.

Transportation

- Ensure that street and parking lot design standards do not require excessive widths. Encourage green infrastructure (bioswales, pervious pavement).

TEAMWORK

Utilities/Public Works:

- Regulations should limit pervious pavement and encourage green infrastructure for a balanced approach to stormwater management. Consider long-term growth impacts of water/sewer extensions.

Parks and Recreation

- If possible, purchase natural areas and/or require open space in new developments to provide infiltration areas and limit impervious cover.

Economic Development

- Municipalities can market infill, redevelopment, and brownfield sites to create livable communities and to invest in existing infrastructure while reducing need for outlying greenfield development.

Implementation discussion and tips

INSTITUTIONAL

- Include both land use planners and stormwater managers in pre-application meetings for potential development projects.
- Use local government sites (schools, parks, streets) green infrastructure demonstration projects.
- Involve stormwater managers in local comprehensive planning process to incorporate overall watershed and stormwater management goals.
- Include land use planners and stormwater managers in utility and transportation master planning.
- Get stormwater managers involved in economic development planning for downtowns, infill sites, etc.



Implementation discussion and tips

PROCESS

- Consider community (vs. site) cost-benefit analysis of stormwater management techniques.
- Adopt process incentives (green building expedited permits)
- Involve all relevant local government departments early in development review process; provide consolidated review of projects vs. separate agency comments
- Explore funding mechanisms as incentives (reduced permitting fees, cost sharing, cost recoupment from later developments, etc.)



Implementation discussion and tips

REGULATIONS

- Focus initially on removing barriers in existing regulations
- Level playing field for infill and redevelopment vs. conventional subdivisions and commercial projects
- Test the Scorecard on existing and proposed developments; compare costs and effectiveness
- Blended approach of grey and green infrastructure may work best
- Hold staff training sessions with speakers that have hands-on knowledge of smart growth development and green infrastructure stormwater management tools and standards (e.g., pervious pavement, bioswales, etc.)

Implementation discussion and tips

- Communication
 - Choice
 - Options
 - Inclusion
- Working together for
 - Federal grants
 - Private investment
 - Fitchburg's residents

