

The Stormwater Calculator Identifying Green Infrastructure Solutions

What is stormwater pollution?

Each year billions of gallons of raw sewage, trash, industrial wastewater, household chemicals and urban runoff flow into our waterways. Stormwater runoff is one of the fastest growing sources of pollution across the country. Increased development such as clearing vegetation, removing and compacting soil, and adding impervious surfaces, like roads and parking lots, adds to stormwater runoff. Clean water is essential to keeping our families and the environment healthy. EPA has developed the Stormwater Calculator to help manage and decrease pollutants in our waterways.

What is the Stormwater Calculator?

The calculator, a part of President Obama's Climate Change Action Plan, is a desktop application that estimates the annual amount of stormwater runoff from a specific location. The Calculator now includes changes in seasonal precipitation levels, the effects of more frequent high-intensity storms, and changes in evaporation rates based on validated Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change climate change scenarios.

Users can enter any U.S. location and select different scenarios to learn how specific green infrastructure changes, including affordable changes like rain barrels and rain gardens, can prevent pollution. This information helps users determine how adding green infrastructure can be one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce stormwater runoff. Please check with local authorities about whether and how use of these tools may support local stormwater management goals and requirements.

What are the Benefits of Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure has the benefit of beautifying neighborhoods and increasing property values, as well as supporting stormwater management, flood mitigation, air quality management, and more. Green infrastructure can also increase the resiliency of stormwater management approaches to a changing climate. Green infrastructure and reduced stormwater runoff adds to sustainable communities, creating a great place to live, work and raise a family.



For more information about green infrastructure, please visit:
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm>

To access and use the stormwater calculator, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/wswrd/wq/models/swc/>

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