



What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater is any form of natural precipitation (including ice and snow melt) that flows across undeveloped or developed land. In a natural setting, a majority of the water seeps into the ground or is captured by trees and other plants. On developed land, things are a bit different. It is likely that a good portion of precipitation will fall on impervious surfaces (paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops). When this happens, the water is unable to filter into the ground and becomes surface runoff.

Why is it a problem?

Stormwater runoff can very quickly increase in both volume and velocity. When this happens, the water picks up debris, chemicals, sediment, and other pollutants. This polluted runoff then either flows directly into a nearby stream or into a storm drain where often it is not cleaned of pollutants before it re-enters the natural environment.

What can I do about it?

A lot! Even making small changes such as picking up dog waste, reducing or eliminating the use of fertilizer, and maintaining your septic system can go a long way. You can make an extra effort by installing a BMP.

Let it Rain

Stormwater Program

Let it Rain is a collaborative program developed by the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District and UVM Lake Champlain Sea Grant. The program is focused on reducing stormwater runoff within the Lake Champlain Basin through education, communication, demonstration, and participation. In 2012, our goal is to facilitate treatment or storage of stormwater runoff from 25,000 square feet of impervious area.

In support of this goal, Let it Rain is providing financial incentives to private and public landowners who install stormwater best management practices (BMP's) on their property. Stormwater BMP's include downspout disconnection, rain barrels, rain gardens, cisterns, and permeable pavers among others.



Available Financial Incentives for Stormwater BMP's

Downspout Disconnection - up to \$20

Rain Barrel - up to \$25

Rain Garden - up to \$250

Cistern - up to \$500

Permeable Pavers - up to \$1 per square foot

Other - dependent on practice

Funding is limited and preference will go to impaired waterways and urban areas. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Incentive payments are reimbursable pending approval of application and acceptance of the terms and conditions of the BMP Incentive Program.

To learn more about the Let it Rain Program or to fill out an application, please visit the Let it Rain website at <http://www.uvm.edu/seagrant/let-it-rain> or contact Justin Kenney at (802) 828-4493 x113.



Explanation of Eligible BMP's



Downspout Disconnection

Downspout disconnection refers to the rerouting of rooftop drainage pipes to drain rainwater to rain barrels, cisterns, or permeable areas instead of the storm sewer. Downspout disconnection stores stormwater and/or allows stormwater to infiltrate into the soil. This simple practice may have particularly great benefits in cities with combined sewer systems.

Typical cost: \$0 - \$25



Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams. Usually a rain barrel is composed of a 55 gallon drum; a vinyl hose; PVC couplings; a screen grate to keep debris and insects out; and other off-the-shelf items. A rain barrel is relatively simple and inexpensive to construct and can sit conveniently under any residential gutter downspout.

Typical cost: \$20 - \$100



Rain Gardens

Raingardens are shallow depressions that capture stormwater and allow it to soak into the ground. By catching stormwater where it falls, raingardens slow runoff, prevent erosion and decrease the amount of pollution flowing downstream to lakes, streams and wetlands. Raingardens also provide beautiful landscaping - which increases property values – and much needed habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife in an urban environment.

Typical cost: \$200 - \$750



Cisterns

A cistern is a receptacle for holding liquids, usually water collected from a roof or some other catchment area. Cisterns are typically located underground but may be placed at ground level or on elevated stands either outdoors or within buildings. A cistern can be used for pollution control, volume reduction, and peak flow reduction.

Typical cost: \$500 - \$1500



Permeable Pavers

Permeable pavements are paved surfaces that infiltrate, treat, and/or store rainwater where it falls. Permeable pavements may be constructed from pervious concrete, porous asphalt, permeable interlocking pavers, and several other materials. These pavements are particularly cost effective where land values are high and where flooding or icing is a problem.

Typical cost: \$1.50 - \$10.00 per square foot



Other Practices

There are a number of other practices that may qualify for funding through the BMP Incentive Program. These include green roofs, bio-swales, infiltration trenches, dry wells, and buffer plantings. Please contact us to discuss your specific needs and we'll try to accommodate you.

Typical Cost: Varies

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SUMMARY AND GUIDANCE

Overview

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) and Lake Champlain Sea Grant (LCSG) offer financial incentives for practices that treat or retain excess stormwater runoff.

Eligibility

Private and public property owners are eligible for funds through this program. This includes all residents, non-profits, businesses, corporations, churches, private schools, homeowner associations, lake associations, and municipal entities located within the Vermont portion of the Lake Champlain Basin. ***Funds will not be considered if the project is being required by any governmental entity***

Funds Available

The WNRCD allocates funds for the program based on the below funding limits:

- Downspout Disconnection - up to \$20
- Rain Barrel - up to \$25
- Rain Garden - up to \$250
- Cistern - up to \$500
- Permeable Pavers - up to \$1 per square foot
- Other - dependent on practice

Eligible Expenses

The WNRCD will evaluate each proposal based on the Evaluation Criteria (see below) to determine eligible expenses. Eligible expenses include design, materials, and labor. Proposed projects must meet certain design standards (e.g Vermont Rain Garden Manual, Vermont Low Impact Development Guide, etc.). Any work completed before an Agreement is signed will not be eligible for funds.

Evaluation Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Location: Is the project within an impaired watershed or highly urbanized area?
- Water Quality Improvement: Does the project reduce the rate or volume of runoff from entering storm drains or streams? Does the project promote the infiltration of runoff?

Funding Agreement and Permitting

Each project approved for funding will enter into a two-year agreement defining the obligations of the WNRCD and the property owner. The agreement will be modified as necessary to account for project specific requirements. The property owner or their representative is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits for the project.

Stormwater Incentive Program Process

The following is the typical process for participating in the Let it Rain Stormwater Incentive Program. A modification of this process may apply in certain situations.

1. Property owner contacts the WNRCD for an onsite consultation.
2. WNRCD staff may provide an onsite consultation to evaluate if a project is viable in regards to water quality benefit and discuss the potential for involvement in the program.
3. Property owner develops concept plan and submits application
4. WNRCD staff reviews application for consistency with program goals and criteria.
5. WNRCD staff approves or disapproves application.
6. If approved, property owner receives funding agreement to sign.
7. WNRCD receives signed funding agreement and notifies property owner that work may commence.
8. Property owner arranges for the installation of the project, obtains any necessary permits, and arranges for the locating of utilities.
9. Property owner keeps log of hours worked (if performing work themselves), saves all receipts from project costs and contacts WNRCD staff upon completion of project.
10. WNRCD staff may perform final inspection and approve project installation.
11. Property owner submits original receipts for project costs to WNRCD staff for reimbursement.
12. Payment is made to the property owner on a monthly cycle according to provisions in the funding agreement
13. Property owner assumes long-term maintenance of the project according to provisions in the funding agreement.

Let it Rain

Stormwater Program

BMP INCENTIVES APPLICATION

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Practice(s) being implemented:

- Downspout Disconnection
- Rain Barrel
- Rain Garden
- Cistern
- Permeable Pavers
- Other _____

Project Narrative

Give a brief outline of the project. Make sure to include the **location** on your property, the **timeline** for implementation, and the **overall environmental benefit** (e.g., preventing flooding and controlling stormwater runoff). Please provide pictures when possible. Use extra sheets of paper if necessary.

Area of impervious surface being treated? _____ square feet
(e.g. size of roof or driveway)

Additional information

Do you live near an impaired waterway? Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
(If yes which one?)

Would you like us to enter your project in the LID Atlas? Yes _____ No _____
(http://clear2.uconn.edu:8080/lidmap/index_original.php)

I/We have full authority to sign this authorization form on behalf of all persons with an interest in the property described on this form.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Return form to: WNRCD, 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1 Berlin, VT, 05602.

E-mail: justin.kenney@vt.nacdnet.net