

COLLABORATION OPTIONS FOR MEETING MS4 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

You are not alone in meeting your MS4 permit requirements

There are a wide range of organizations, coalitions, and networks that have developed educational and technical resources you can access to help meet your requirements at little to no cost. Many of these organizations have received federal, state, and private funding to create these resources, and have the expertise and staff to help. New online resources and tools have been developed to help you identify potential focus areas for watershed restoration and the type and scale of projects needed to achieve water quality benefits. Some of this assistance may be right in your own backyard via your municipal volunteer planning or environmental advisory boards and your local watershed groups.

Here are some of the groups you should contact to help connect you with stormwater education and training resources related to specific minimum control measures (MCMs) of your MS4 permit:

MCMs #1 and #2: Public Education and Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement

It's often possible to partner with local watershed groups and other non-profit organizations on education and outreach and public participation activities such as stream clean-ups, riparian buffer plantings, or rain barrel workshops. Many of these activities can be used to comply with MCM #1 and MCM #2 requirements at little or no cost to the municipality.

Ask your county conservation district watershed specialist for information on watershed groups active in your community. Additionally, the County Conservation District Watershed Specialists can provide direct technical assistance and typically coordinate county [Tree Vitalize](#) programs.

Municipal Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) (if active in your community) implement many of the same programs noted above, often in partnership with other non-profits and schools. These events can be credited to your MCM #1 and #2 requirements. If you are unsure about the status of local EACs, use this link to search the EAC Network: www.EACNETWORK.org

Publications and electronic education resources that can be distributed to interested residents or posted on municipal websites are also available from a variety of sources including:

- Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Watershed Brochure Series: PEC partnered with the Lehigh County Conservation District and the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley to create informative and easy to understand brochures. The brochures can be posted on websites or given out at events. PEC distributes copies to organizations at no charge and maintains the web-versions on its website: www.pecpa.org/program/waterresourcebrochures
- 3 Rivers Wet Weather: www.3riverswetweather.org

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- Chesapeake Stormwater Network: www.chesapeakestormwater.net/bay-stormwater
- Green-Cause.org: www.green-cause.org/joomla/index.php
- Stormwater PA: www.stormwaterpa.org/clean-your-water.html

Minimum Control Measure #6 – Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Good Housekeeping (MCM #6) Training:
Please contact Susan Myerov, Watersheds Program Director: smyerov@pecpa.org
for information on PEC's on-site training course for municipal staff and managers.

Online training resources, tools, and models

Check out these existing and evolving online data management and mapping tools available for public use. Many of these online tools are relatively easy to learn and use:

- Datashed is a FREE online tool to assist volunteers, students, industry, and government agencies in the operation and maintenance of passive treatment systems
www2.datashed.org
- Stroud™ Water Research Center's Wikiwatershed web tools
www.wikiwatershed.org
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Water Resources PA webtool
www.waterresourcespa.org

Want to learn more? Attend local and/or regional training seminars and forums such as:

- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum
www.allianceforthebay.org/our-work/engaging-local-communities/chesapeake-watershed-forum
- Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed Forum
www.delriverwatershed.org/2016-forum-reg
- Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership
www1.villanova.edu/villanova/engineering/research/centers/vcase/vusp1.html
- University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center: Municipal Online Stormwater Training Center
www.mostcenter.org

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Regional Collaborations

There are many types of organizations working on stormwater education: colleges and universities, conservation organizations, and watershed associations. In many cases, these partners have worked with municipalities to create regional solutions to MS4 challenges. Three case studies of successful partnerships in different areas of the state are noted below.

1. YORK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION – YORK COUNTY STORMWATER CONSORTIUM
www.ycpc.org/divisions/long-range-planning/stormwater.html#EDU_Resources

York County municipalities are already working cooperatively as part of the York County Stormwater Consortium to plan, fund, and construct projects that reduce nutrients to improve local water quality and Chesapeake Bay water quality.

YCPC Staff members are pro-actively engaged in the implementation of the York County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and a Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan. Efforts evolving out of these Plans are closely linked to the implementation of the [Integrated Water Resources Plan](#) (IWRP) component of the [York County Comprehensive Plan](#) and municipal stormwater requirements resulting from the [Stormwater Management Act \(Act 167\)](#) and the [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\)](#) permitting program. Technical assistance and guidance is available to municipalities to assist with stormwater management planning and ordinance preparation, meeting MS4 permit requirements, and helping municipal officials to understand their roles and responsibilities related to these stormwater programs.

2. BERKS COUNTY MS4 PROGRAM AND STEERING COMMITTEE
www.berkscd.com/berks-ms4-program

The Berks County MS4 Steering Committee was formed to address stormwater discharge permit requirements on a regional level. The [Steering Committee](#) and [member municipalities](#), along with the educational partners ([Berks County Planning Commission](#), [Berks County Conservation District](#), [Berks County Conservancy](#)), collaborate on providing the Berks County Cooperative Education Program. This program was developed to meet the education and outreach permit requirements for the MS4 program. The cooperative education program focuses on portions of the 6 minimum control measures related to education and outreach.

3. PENN STATE MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM
<http://www.extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/watershed-education/watershed-stewards>

The Master Watershed Steward (MWS) Program was developed to recruit, train, and retain volunteers interested in working with local communities on water resource conservation. In counties throughout the state, MWSs are involved with their local municipalities to help with MS4 responsibilities. These volunteers are designing and constructing rain gardens, carrying out public educational presentations, and doing workshops such as rain barrel building and native plantings. See the website for the current list of county programs; contact elf145@psu.edu for more information.