

A Municipal Perspective on Environmental Regulatory Mandates

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Goals of TMDL Regulations

- Reduce the levels of nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants in storm water runoff
- Improve water quality in receiving streams and rivers
- Restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay

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Challenges

- Statewide concerns
 - \$\$\$ development disincentive, land use restrictions
- “One Size Doesn’t Fit All” for local concerns

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Challenge – Aging Infrastructure



Typical Brick Arch Storm Drainage Tunnel

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Challenge – Development Density



20-acre “suburban” development



20-acre downtown block

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Challenge - Public “Buy-In”

- Invisible pollutants
- Distance to the Bay
- Private ownership of SWM facilities

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Challenge – Political & Economic Realities

- Estimated \$210 million by 2025 to comply with WIP goals
- NPDES Phase II requirements
- Perception that the urban sector is being unfairly targeted
- City Financial Constraints & Stormwater Fee
- Competitive Disadvantage

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Strategies

What are the most cost effective methods to attempt to comply with the regulations?

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Strategy – Take credit for existing programs



Street Sweeping Program



Tree Planting Program

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Strategy – Take credit for existing programs



Urban Nutrient Management on City-owned properties

Review Bay Model to ensure that all existing SWM facilities are being accounted for

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Strategy – Work with partners



Coordinate with local environmental advocacy groups and County Conservation District on projects such as the planting of stream buffers, stream bank stabilization, and stream cleanup campaigns

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Strategy – Grant & Loan Funding

- Department of Natural Resources
 - Street trees & forest plantings
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
 - Stream restoration, "Green Streets", studies
- Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust
 - Stormwater retrofit projects
- EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 funds

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Strategy – Retrofit Projects



Hagerstown Industrial Park
proposed retrofit facility

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Strategy – Retrofit Projects



Conceptual design of retrofit facility

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Strategy – Green Streets



Incorporate water quality treatment facilities into various projects focused on improved pedestrian access, traffic calming, and general streetscape enhancements.

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Is it reasonable?



Depends on your perspective...

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