

Low Impact Development Resource Pack

The following resource pack is intended as an introduction to Low Impact Development (LID), providing useful resources for application in the towns within the Southern Windsor County region. Stormwater management techniques that are usually considered “Low Impact Development” include rain gardens and vegetated swales, porous pavement and paving, rain barrels and cisterns, green roofs, street width reduction and using native plants in landscaping. As resource 1 of this pack details, there are several benefits to using LID approaches rather than traditional stormwater management systems, including improving water quality, addressing stormwater flow at its source, preserving local waterbodies, promoting ground water recharge, allowing for more flexible site layouts, enhancing aesthetics and public access, and reducing costs (US EPA New England, 2009:2).

This resource pack was created in conjunction with the 604(b) ARRA grant by the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission in Fall 2010.

Resource 1 – Incorporating Low Impact Development into Municipal Stormwater Programs

A guide to managing stormwater with Low Impact Development (LID) techniques produced by EPA New England in 2009. Provides a comprehensive summary of LID benefits, description of LID practices, and describes steps that municipalities can take to encourage and implement LID techniques in their community.

Full reference: US Environmental Protection Agency New England. (2009) “Incorporating Low Impact Development into Municipal Stormwater Programs”. April 2009. EPA 901-F-09-005. Online at: www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/assets/pdfs/IncorporatingLID.pdf

Resource 2 – Low Impact Development Tools for Vermont Towns.

Created by the Southern Windsor County and Addison County Regional Planning Commissions in 2007, this guide describes to how Vermont municipalities can encourage site design that maximizes infiltration of stormwater on site. It includes a section on how to support LID in municipal plans and a checklist for municipalities to examine how they support LID in local bylaws and ordinances. This brochure was created in conjunction with the 2007 604b grant provided by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. This guide is available online at <http://www.swcrpc.org>

Resource 3 – Local Low Impact Development Examples

A brief summary of some examples of LID projects in Vermont and New Hampshire that could be relevant for the towns of Southern Windsor County. This resource is available online at <http://www.swcrpc.org>

Resource 4 – Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Model Bylaw

In 2008 the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) produced a Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Model Bylaw which can be adapted for use in towns. Available online from http://resources.vlct.org/u/o_LID-secured.pdf, this resource also includes a technical paper on managing stormwater through LID techniques which includes a comparison of traditional development and LID and an introduction to the Model Bylaw, as well as a memo to introduce the Model Bylaw.

Resource 5 – Managing Stormwater with LID Practices: Addressing Barriers to LID

Another resource produced by EPA New England, this factsheet addresses several concerns and barriers that arise when considering LID techniques, including cost, cold weather, groundwater, public safety and regulatory concerns.

Full reference: US Environmental Protection Agency New England. (2009) “Managing Stormwater with Low Impact Development Practices: Addressing Barriers to LID”. April 2009. EPA 901-F-09-003. Online at www.epa.gov/ne/npdes/stormwater/assets/pdfs/AddressingBarrier2LID.pdf

Resource 6 – Further resources

Annotated list of additional resources that are useful with regard to stormwater management and LID techniques.