

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.

Let it Rain is provides limited financial incentives and informational/ educational support to private and public landowners who install or are interested in installing 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.



Examples of Stormwater BMP's

Funding allocated for projects 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, funding availability 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 www.letitrainvt.org or email: info@winooskinrcd.org







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 stormdrain 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.

Stormwater 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.



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.



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.



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 place 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.



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.



Other Practices

There are a number of other practices, these include green roofs, bio-swales, infiltration trenches, dry wells, and buffer plantings.

Please visit the WNRCD website at: www.winooskinrcd.org for more information on specific stormwater BMP's that can be implemented on your property.