

	Bowling Green, Kentucky Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) Stormwater Pollution Prevention (Non-Structural)	SPP-01
Activity: Education		
<p>PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:</p> <p>Design Life: Program life</p> <p>Acreage Needed: N/A</p> <p>Estimated Unit Cost: Varies</p> <p>Training Programs: Annual/biannual, new employee training</p>		
<p>Description</p> <p>Suitable Applications</p>	<p>Education is a key nonstructural BMP that supports both structural and nonstructural practices. Education programs are the first step in achieving proper operational procedures and incorporating practices into daily activities to minimize the potential for contributing pollutants to become incorporated into stormwater runoff. Nonstructural practices such as this can cost-effectively compliment other BMPs and reduce pollutant loads that contribute to stormwater pollution. Two educational practices discussed in this fact sheet include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training ➤ Standard operating procedures <p>A stormwater education program can have a wide range of applications and audiences. Any homeowner or municipal, commercial or industrial facility that impacts stormwater could benefit from practices achieved by this BMP. Examples of suitable applications include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Employees ➤ Commercial or industrial businesses ➤ Facilities with outdoor storage ➤ Public Service Organization ➤ Schools ➤ General Public 	

Approach

The effectiveness of an education program stems from the leadership of government departments and the involvement and proactive participation of individuals and target audiences. Government departments such as the Public Works Department perform highly visible activities in the community such as maintaining roadways, sewers, and sinkholes. If municipal departments such as this take on a leadership role, it can improve the community-wide acceptance of adopting and implementing educational programs.

Educational programs can facilitate employee awareness of stormwater pollutants, runoff flow characteristics, spill prevention and control measures and proper operation and maintenance practices. Education is generally most effective when a target audience can clearly see the relationship between their daily activities and the associated stormwater quality impacts. Making this connection can result in changed habits and behaviors that can improve water quality in and outside of the workplace. Employee education programs should not only focus on workplace activities, but should also include ways that employees can reduce the potential water quality impacts in their homes and communities. Public education programs can also enhance community responsiveness, which may increase inquiries or reporting when spills or illicit discharges occur.

Training as part of an educational program can take many forms, including the following:

- Municipal/commercial training
- New staff training
- Refresher training

Standard operating procedures consist of choices that public (or private) employees make that can reduce the impact that pollutants have on local streams and waterways. Standard operating procedures can be incorporated by:

- Adding to daily/routine activities
- Supplying the BMP reference manual to employees for frequent and infrequent activities
- Encouraging employees and target groups to adopt standard operating procedures

Training

Stormwater education programs should be conducted in a variety of forms, and at regular intervals throughout an individual's employment. Possible program activities may include:

- A stormwater briefing session held for approximately a half-hour to update employees on proper practices, reflect on a recent incident or discuss a case study/what-if scenario.
- Partnering with local volunteer groups or schools to provide tours of the Department of Public Works facilities with a focus on practices that minimize stormwater quality impacts.
- Distributing or making brochures or stormwater information available on a periodic basis.

Standard Operating Procedures

Standard operating procedures should be integrated into daily tasks to reduce the potential for stormwater pollution. Standard operating procedures should not only be adopted by municipal facilities, but also by private businesses. They can include moving or cleaning equipment to prevent rainfall from washing pollutants into streams, clearing litter or debris from parking lots, and educating to not over-use pesticides or herbicides.

**Standard
Operating
Procedures
(cont.)**

The following activities can impact stormwater quality and should have associated standard operating procedures to control the source of the pollutant before it comes in contact with runoff:

- Vehicle and equipment maintenance or washing
- Cleaning tools and equipment
- Roadside litter and street sweeping
- Storage yards
- Mowing and landscaping
- Pesticide and herbicide use, delivery, and storage
- Sand, salt, or chemical storage and loading
- Use of floor drains
- Hazardous material storage
- Handling bulk liquids
- Septic system maintenance
- Solid waste and dumpster use
- Disposal of waste oils, filters, fuels, and tires
- Disposal of concrete and metal waste
- Annual surveys of employee practices meeting/not meeting standard operating procedures.