



Facility Managers: Old Stormwater Controls Not Working for You? CALL CWQE!

Will the next hard rain
overwhelm your property's
aging stormwater controls?
Is that old detention basin

draining poorly or simply an eyesore? CWQE can help you evaluate why your aging stormwater management practices may be contributing to local flooding or stream degradation. Chances are they were designed 15 to 20 years ago using older practice techniques and were not maintained on a regular annual basis. CWQE can help you get started with maintenance planning, including annual inspection checklists, so you are not caught off-guard with the next big storm event.

Visit the [CWQE Support Hub](#) or call 855-227-1202. Once registered on the Hub, you can submit a request for no-cost technical assistance if your property is located in York or Lancaster counties. CWQE coaches can visit your site, evaluate retrofit opportunities, and connect you with potential funding support.



Liz Sweitzer manages requests for assistance at the Columbia, PA CWQE office.

Still Time to Apply for DCED Watershed Restoration & Protection Grants

Both urban and agricultural stormwater projects are supported by DCED's Watershed Restoration & Protection Program (WRPP)



grants. Applications are due May 31st.

The deadline is around the corner so take a closer look, in particular if you need up to \$300,000 to make your project happen. Your match is only 15 percent, and the application process is not arduous. The WRPP is one of the few programs that funds the repair and maintenance of existing Best Management Practices, and for-profit businesses can apply as well as municipalities, non-profits, and higher education institutions.

WRPP is one of 13 programs funded by Act 13 (natural gas impact fees) and administered by the Commonwealth Financing Agency under DCED. Last year, \$10.4 million was allocated to all 13 programs; other DCED programs include the [Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program](#) (which received the highest volume of awards in 2021) and [Flood Mitigation Program](#).

Time for a Tech Talk?



Jake Holbert, GNSS/GPS Specialist, explains digital inspection tools to Chuck Hegberg of Ecotone at the February CWQE Tech Talk.

CWQE wants to hear from you.

Are you interested in learning more about digital tools for stormwater inspections, tracking fertilizer use, and high accuracy field data collection?

CWQE is offering late afternoon, one-on-one and/or small group demonstrations of tools that can make your job easier.

Give us a call at 855-227-1202 or email support@cwqe.org and let us know your area of interest and availability. Not sure what you need? No worries. Give us a call and we can discuss a tailored strategy to address your workload needs.

SOIL HEALTH: No-Till + Cover Crops a Win-Win

York County farmer Leroy Bupp has been practicing no-till and cover cropping since 1972. After 50 years of soil health-saving practices, the runoff from Bupp's cropland runs clear even after severe storm events. (Watch [demo video clip](#).)

For every 1 percent increase in organic matter, the soil can hold nearly 18,000 gallons of water per acre! That's important because as our region experiences flashier storms (flood waters rise in a short amount of time), we need the sponginess of soil to capture the water.



A member of the PA No-Till Alliance, Bupp is a strong advocate of building the organic matter in soils that supports the holding and infiltration capacity of soils.

Cover crops take no-till to another level. They build soil organic matter, retain nutrients, reduce soil compaction, and control weeds. Still, in Pennsylvania, only about half of the no-till acres have more than 50% crop residue after planting – the

Growing Greener and Nonpoint Source Section 319 Grants Now Open

Applications are now open for PA DEP's Growing Greener Plus and Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants. Deadline is Friday June 24, 2022.

One new priority area for [Growing Greener grants](#) includes projects that implement agricultural and urban assist in future flood prevention and climate resiliency in support of the Pennsylvania 2021 Climate Action Plan. This includes no-till farming, riparian forest buffers, green infrastructure, stream and streambank restoration, and other agricultural and stormwater BMPs.

Under the [Section 319 NPS grants](#), the Department is offering grants to develop new WIPs in [Pennsylvania's Environmental Justice \(EJ\) areas](#) for watersheds, based upon watershed plan elements for threatened or impaired waters.

minimum to maintain or increase soil health. Fear of losing crop yields and cropping rented land are among the barriers to adoption.

The fix? Start small. Try cover crops on the “back-40.” You can also find financial assistance through a number of programs to get started. Check out CWQE's [Funding Cover Crops in Pennsylvania: A Comparison of Cost-Share Programs](#) at [CWQE's Support Hub](#). Equipment for no-till and cover cropping has advanced dramatically since the 1980's. Programs like REAP provide a 90% tax credit on rollers/crimpers.



High Tunnels as an Agricultural Practice & Stormwater Management

More than half a dozen farmers in Lancaster and York counties have requested assistance from CWQE to help them better understand local stormwater management requirements

for the addition of high tunnels — temporary hooped structures that extend the growing season from March to December.

The problem? Some municipalities are looking at proposed high tunnels as permanent building structures that require the submission of detailed stormwater management plans, including hydrological routing to design the stormwater facilities. And stormwater structural controls designed often lack a watershed approach and sensitivity to protecting soil health.

“Regulations look at high tunnels like a building,” says Jeff Stoltzfus, Penn State Extension Educator. “They are impervious to the extent that the plastic covering is impervious, but there are other distinctions. High tunnels are temporary structures rotated every 1-5 years, and there’s no soil excavation.

On March 10, 2022, CWQE provided a forum for farmers and municipalities to learn more about the benefits of high tunnels, the state stormwater plan exemption, appropriate stormwater practices for agricultural lands, and what may need to change in both state and local regulations to best accommodate high tunnels as an agricultural practice. For a summary of the workshop presentations and guidance on high tunnel stormwater management, visit [High Tunnels & Stormwater Management - PA-CWQE](#).

[READ MORE](#) about stormwater management and high tunnels.

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