



## Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure

### Green Infrastructure Demonstration Showcase

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### **Who is eligible to apply to the Green Infrastructure Demonstration Showcase?**

- Municipalities, counties, public educational institutions, utility authorities or other public-sector entities located in one of two targeted regions of New Jersey (see Project Location, below).
- Developers, corporations, private non-profit organizations, or other private-sector entities

Two projects will be selected – one public-sector project and one private-sector project.

##### **Are there specific areas of the state where a project must be located?**

Yes. Eligible projects must be located within one of two [target areas](#).

The William Penn Foundation, which funds the Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure program, directs resources to protecting the Delaware River watershed and ensuring an adequate supply of clean water through the [Delaware River Watershed Initiative](#). This initiative focuses its work in eight clusters of Delaware River sub-watersheds, and two of those clusters – the New Jersey [Highlands cluster](#) and the [Kirkwood Cohansey Aquifer cluster](#) – are in New Jersey. Eligible projects must lie within the Delaware River Initiative Area in one of those two regions. Preference will be given to projects that **also lie in a growth area** designated by a municipal or regional master plan.

##### **What qualifies as green stormwater infrastructure?**

Green infrastructure is “an approach to stormwater management that is cost effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure practices capture, filter, absorb and reuse stormwater to help restore the natural water cycle by reducing stormwater runoff, promoting infiltration, and enhancing evapotranspiration.”<sup>1</sup> Examples include bioretention, green roofs, pervious pavement, vegetated swales and cisterns. Green infrastructure practices range in size from modest downspout planters to large underground storage systems that capture stormwater to infiltrate slowly or re-use for irrigation, industrial cooling, flushing toilets, washing vehicles and any number of other uses. Whether through groundwater recharge or capture and re-use, green infrastructure treats stormwater as a precious resource.

##### **Should projects show green infrastructure integrated into a building, or standalone installations such as a rain garden or bioswale?**

Projects may incorporate any and all types of green infrastructure. Projects with a variety of green infrastructure practices that confer a variety of benefits are preferred. For projects not

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<sup>1</sup> “Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual for New Jersey,” Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

yet fully designed, applicants may indicate what types of green infrastructure practices they would like to incorporate, and offer ideas about where and how. Our technical and design experts can work with your team to help turn an aspirational concept plan into a real, workable plan.

**How far along does a plan or project need to be?**

Not very far. Plans can be conceptual, or fully engineered. What matters is that the project sponsor is willing to go the extra mile to add green infrastructure features that make the project a great example of how green infrastructure can protect water quality and confer triple-bottom-line (environmental, societal and economic) benefits to the property owner and community.

**What is the best way to demonstrate quantifiable beneficial impact on water quality? Is there a specific standard you expect projects to meet?**

Every project is different, but all should be capable of retaining and managing at least 100 percent of stormwater on site for a “water quality storm” (1.25 inches of rainfall over two hours). Here are a few hypothetical examples of the types of projects that would be suitable for submission:

- A redevelopment project near a key, vulnerable river or stream, that eliminates runoff from the site through the use of infiltration, thus helping recharge groundwater, and that also captures water to reuse for irrigation or other purposes, enabling the property owner to conserve water.
- A road or park project that eliminates a nuisance flooding problem or prevents uncontrolled runoff into a high-value stream by redirecting stormwater into swales, tree pits and/or bioretention basins.
- A school that employs multiple techniques, such as: converts parking from impervious pavement into permeable pavers; converts a large expanse of lawn to meadow; plants trees in or near a parking lot to provide shade; and/or disconnects gutters from a storm sewer system and channels water instead to a rain garden. For school submissions, evidence that green infrastructure practices have been integrated into curricula will be given additional consideration.

**What types of projects is the Green Infrastructure Demonstration Showcase looking for? Should the project already have green infrastructure features or is it more important to demonstrate an ability and a willingness to incorporate them?**

New Jersey Future seeks to facilitate impressive, high-profile projects that show innovative and effective use of green infrastructure in public- and private-sector settings. Projects can be conceptual, in design, or even fully engineered -- provided (a) the opportunity exists (and the project sponsor is motivated) to add or enhance stormwater management with green infrastructure practices, and (b) the project sponsor wants and intends to start construction within 24 months.

**Who will choose the winning projects?**

The winners will be chosen by New Jersey Future and its technical consultants.

**Will winning projects receive funding?**

Support for winning projects will come in the form of direct assistance from technical/design, financial and legal experts identified and paid by New Jersey Future. Each selected project will receive consulting services valued at up to \$10,000, to develop detailed plans that demonstrate innovation and design excellence, as well as technical, financial and regulatory feasibility. In addition, each selected project will receive up to \$5,000 of incentive funding to help remove any roadblocks to implementation.

Selected projects also will receive media exposure and other positive publicity through New Jersey Future's website, social media, Future Facts electronic newsletter and a press release circulated to local and regional media.

**Who will receive the consulting and incentive funds? How will that decision be made?**

New Jersey Future will be flexible on where the consulting funds flow. New Jersey Future has design Consultants—and potentially legal consultants, as needed—to provide technical assistance and advice to the applicant's design team. At New Jersey Future's discretion, up to 85% of funds can be directed to an applicant as reimbursement for costs paid to the applicant's design team for an innovative, cutting-edge design, or for costs paid to others employed by the applicant to overcome implementation obstacles. Applicants should confer with New Jersey Future to determine if the scope of work and professionals employed will qualify for this reimbursement.

**What is the due date for applications and the overall program timeframe?**

New Jersey Future will accept project proposals through Friday, Dec. 9, 2016. Winning projects will be selected by Monday, Jan. 16, 2017. Technical assistance will be available from at least late January through August 2017.

**Applicants must be willing to sign an agreement with New Jersey Future. What is the purpose of that?**

The agreement will define and formalize the obligations of both parties. It will stipulate, for example, the kinds of technical, financial and legal expertise New Jersey Future will provide (up to a \$10,000 value) as well as up to \$5,000 of incentive funding to help eliminate technical or regulatory roadblocks that stand in the way of implementation. It will also define the project sponsor's commitments – for example, that the sponsor will make every effort to meet a relatively aggressive timeframe, that the sponsor is willing to adopt a maintenance plan for green infrastructure installations, and is willing to deed-restrict the area immediately underlying a green infrastructure feature such as a bioretention basin or permeable pavement portion of a parking lot.