Code Review Checklist

PURPOSE

The Code Review Checklist is a tool for assessing the capacity of local regulations to support green infrastructure options in new development and redevelopment within a community.

There are many reasons why a community should support the development of green infrastructure in both new development and redevelopment. In addition to the effectiveness of the many structural practices designed to manage and treat storm water close to its source through natural or engineered systems, green infrastructure facilities can be beautiful, compatible with the pedestrian environment, and support place making design elements at almost any site. The pending reissuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit will also require regulated communities to assess their local regulations and policies for compatibility with green infrastructure practices.
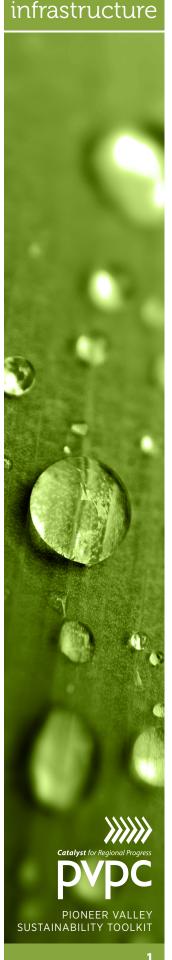
HOW IT WORKS

The Code Review Checklist is divided into several easy to follow sections that allow a community to determine:

- » **if their local regulations are compliant with the draft 2010 NPDES MS4 Permit;**
- » **the degree to which their street design, parking lot and other local requirements affect the creation of impervious cover;**
- » **and the extent to which a Low Impact Design (LID) approach is integral to site planning and development.**

The checklist does not offer a ranking or final score but rather identifies specific areas of local regulations that can be improved upon to better support green infrastructure and LID site planning.

NPDES MS4 Permit Compliance – Based on the draft 2010 permit, the Code Review Checklist asks a series of questions that allow the municipality to determine if their local bylaws or ordinances meet permit requirements for stormwater management program funding, illicit connections, erosion and sediment control at construction sites, and post construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment.

Street and Parking Lot Standards in Subdivision Regulations and Zoning – Once completed, these sections of the Code Review Checklist offer a comparison between existing code requirements and LID standards for road width and length, rights of ways, sidewalks, cul de sacs, stormwater management facilities, and landscaping requirements.

Feasibility of Green Infrastructure in Other Local Regulations, Policies, and Programs This section of the Checklist seeks information about other zoning tools such as open space or cluster development, Board of Health and wetland regulations, street tree policies and programs, and local building/plumbing codes relative to programs such as rain water harvesting.

RESOURCES

The Pioneer Valley Green Infrastructure Code Review Checklist is a compilation of guidance drawn from several resources including The Center for Watershed Protection's Code and Ordinance Worksheet, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Scorecard, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Low Impact Development Toolkit Checklist for Regulatory Review.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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