

Local Public Education

Local Municipal Stormwater Ordinances

A part of the NJDEP Municipal Stormwater General Permit renewed by each municipality every year, there is requirement implement a local public education program that focuses on providing the public with information on the impact of stormwater discharges to surface and ground waters of the State and steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Appropriate information to be covered during these educational activities shall include, but is not limited to, local stormwater related municipal ordinances [Pet Waste Ordinance, Litter Ordinance, Improper Disposal of Waste Ordinance, Wildlife Feeding Ordinance, Illicit Connection Ordinance, Refuse Container / Dumpster Ordinance, Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting, and Fertilizer Management Ordinance (if applicable)]; proper application, storage and disposal of fertilizer and pesticides; home composting and yard waste recycling; use of native or well-adapted vegetation; local stream and/or shoreline restoration activities; watershed education; and general nonpoint source education. Municipalities accomplish this by posting on the municipal website, articles in municipal newsletters, handouts at civic affairs, etc.

In addition, stormwater training for elected municipal officials is an approved local public education activity. Therefore, the following is a recap of the municipal ordinances that have been adopted to minimize stormwater pollution.

a. Pet Waste Ordinance

Requires pet owners, or their keepers, to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person. Information on the Pet Waste Ordinance and the benefits of proper disposal of pet solid waste shall be distributed with pet licenses.

b. Litter Ordinance

Requires enforcement of a litter ordinance or enforcement of the existing State litter statute.

c. Improper Disposal of Waste Ordinance

Requires enforcement of an ordinance prohibiting the improper spilling, dumping, or disposal of materials other than stormwater into the municipal storm sewer system.

d. Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

Requires enforcement of an ordinance that prohibits the feeding in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by a municipality of any wildlife (excluding confined animals, for example, wildlife confined in zoos, parks, or rehabilitation centers or unconfined wildlife at environmental education centers, or feral cats as part of an approved Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program).

e. Yard Waste Ordinance / Collection Program

Requires enforcement of an ordinance that prohibits placing non-containerized yard wastes in the

cartway of the street or shall have developed and implemented a yard waste collection and disposal program. A yard waste collection program shall include the adoption and enforcement of an ordinance prohibiting the placing of yard waste closer than 10 feet from any storm sewer inlet along the street, unless they are bagged or otherwise containerized. The frequency of pickups shall be determined at the discretion of the municipality but must be part of a set yard waste collection schedule which is noticed to all municipal residents and businesses. Any area, which the municipality determines to have no yard waste, will be exempt from the collections.

f. Refuse Container / Dumpster Ordinance

Requires enforcement an ordinance requiring dumpsters and other refuse containers that are outdoors or exposed to stormwater to be covered at all times and which prohibits the spilling, dumping, leaking, or otherwise discharge of liquids, semi-liquids or solids from the containers [excluding permitted temporary demolition containers, refuse containers at industrial facilities authorized to discharge stormwater under a valid NJPDES permit, litter receptacles, individual homeowner trash and recycling containers, and containers that hold large bulky items (e.g., furniture, bound carpet and padding) only].

g. Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting Ordinance

Requires enforcement of an ordinance requiring the retrofitting of existing storm drain inlets to meet the standard in Attachment C of the permit which are in direct contact with repaving, repairing (excluding repair of individual potholes), reconstruction, resurfacing (including top coating or chip sealing with asphalt emulsion or a thin base of hot bitumen), or alterations of facilities on property not owned or operated by the municipality (except individual single family homes).