

iWater Toolsheets / Approaches and concepts:

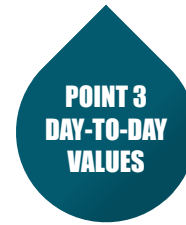
Education and engagement

Sustainable stormwater management practices provide an opportunity to educate and engage communities on water management and to grow appreciation and respect for urban water ecosystems.

Why: Typically, lack of knowledge is hindering planning and design of sustainable stormwater systems. Despite many successful case examples, sustainable stormwater practices are still regarded as a new thing, which might cause doubt and resistance. Properly addressed engagement and education is needed to overcome these barriers and for building trust and support for the process and outcome.

How: Education can be carried out in various ways. An open databank including basic knowledge and case examples can serve civil servants working with stormwater management. Public outreach and education campaigns can be targeted for residents and for decision makers. Raingardens, cisterns or other stormwater elements incorporated on school premises can be viewed as a valuable learning and play opportunity for children, who often spread knowledge to homes as well. Examples of structural solutions as well as cost-benefit analysis of realised solutions can serve as a valuable source of information.

Good to know: In order to create well-functioning systems, various stakeholders have to be engaged, including decision makers, planners and designers as well as landowners and citizens. Solutions that are created in co-operation locally have better chances to succeed.



The city of Seattle has put a lot of effort to educate and inform people about the stormwater systems integrated in the public areas.

More Information

United States Environmental Protection Agency has published an guidebook on how to engage stakeholders in watershed management;
<https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/stakeholderguide.pdf>

A small a leaflet prepared for the residents of a sensitive watershed area of Kalajärvi lake (City of Espoo in Finland); <http://www.espoo.fi/download/none/%7B6DF1AF90-124A-40E5-9345-3CB38E4A88E4%7D/18157>

