

Source control

Source control is associated with the use of small-scale techniques disseminated throughout the watershed in order to reproduce or maintain predevelopment hydrologic conditions.

Why: The term *source control* began to be used in the 1990s in the USA and it was initially used to distinguish between on-site stormwater practices to be used at source where run-off is generated, as opposed to larger detention basins that are constructed downstream. Source control methods are quite often prioritised as the first option in sustainable storm water management guidelines and strategies.

How: Flow control, evapotranspiration and infiltration should transpire as close to the source as possible, thus minimising any impacts on hydrologic and water quality. The focus is on the technical management of the stormwater and very little attention is paid to social values or water as a potentially positive feature in the urban context.

Good to know: The term *source control* can refer to pollution prevention or to stormwater treatment devices; the context must be carefully examined to understand which approach is being targeted.

The division of the control techniques to non-structural and structural is typical of source control guidelines in North America. Source control is often presented with an LID approach (see the toolsheet on *Low Impact Development*).

POINT 1
URBAN
RESILIENCE

POINT 2
TECHNICAL
OPTIMI-
ZATION

POINT 3
DAY-TO-DAY
VALUES



Source control of storm waters in a street area in Vantaa (2015).

More information

Source Control design guidelines (PDF), the federation of Metro Vancouver (if the direct link asks for log in try to copy the link into your browser).

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/liquid-waste/LiquidWastePublications/StormwaterSourceControlDesignGuidelines2012StormwaterSourceControlDesignGuidelines2012.pdf>

