

OP 23: Rainwater Management

2 points available

A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that implement policies and programs to reduce stormwater runoff and resultant water pollution, and treat rainwater as a resource rather than as a waste product. By using low impact development practices and green infrastructure to manage rainwater, institutions can help replenish natural aquifers, reduce erosion impacts, decrease pressures on public infrastructure and minimize local water contamination.

B. Criteria

Institution uses [green infrastructure](#) and [low impact development](#) (LID) practices to help mitigate [stormwater run-off](#) impacts and treat rainwater as a resource rather than as a waste product.

Policies adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g., state/provincial government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

D. Scoring

Institutions earn the maximum of 2 points available for this credit by having comprehensive rainwater management policies, plans or guidelines that incorporate green infrastructure, cover the entire campus, and mandate the use of LID practices for all new construction, major renovation, and development projects.

Partial points are available as follows:

Which of the following best describes the institution's approach to rainwater management?	Points earned
Institution has comprehensive rainwater management policies, plans or guidelines that incorporate green infrastructure, cover the entire campus, and mandate the use of LID practices for all new construction, major renovation, and development projects.	2
Institution has rainwater management policies, plans or guidelines that incorporate green infrastructure, but are less comprehensive (e.g., do not cover the entire campus, cover buildings and not other types of projects, or require consideration of rather than mandate LID practices).	1
Institution uses green infrastructure to manage rainwater and employs LID practices on a case-by-case basis or for demonstration projects (i.e., in the absence of formal policies, plans or guidelines).	0.5

E. Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Which of the following best describes the institution's approach to rainwater management?
 - Institution has comprehensive rainwater management policies, plans or guidelines that incorporate green infrastructure, cover the entire campus, and mandate the use of LID practices for all new construction, major renovation, and development projects.
 - Institution has rainwater management policies, plans or guidelines that incorporate green infrastructure, but are less comprehensive (e.g., do not cover the entire campus, cover buildings and not other types of projects, or require consideration of rather than mandate LID practices).
 - Institution uses green infrastructure to manage rainwater and employs LID practices on a case-by-case basis or for demonstration projects (i.e., in the absence of formal policies, plans or guidelines).
 - None of the above; institution does not use green infrastructure or LID practices.

If institution uses green infrastructure and LID practices, provide:

- A brief description of the institution's green infrastructure and LID practices

If reporting policies, plans or guidelines, provide:

- A copy or brief description of the institution's rainwater management policy, plan, and/or guidelines to support the responses above (text or upload)

Optional

- ☐ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

F. Measurement

Timeframe

Report on current policies, plans, and/or strategies at the time of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards

Report on policies, plans, and/or strategies employed throughout the campus.

G. Standards and Terms

Green infrastructure

Consistent with the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), the term "green infrastructure" refers to:

...systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire (the return of water to the atmosphere either through evaporation or by plants), or reuse stormwater or runoff on the site where it is generated.

Examples include rainwater harvesting, downspout disconnection, rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavements, green streets and alleys, green roofs, and urban tree canopy.

Low impact development

Consistent with [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#), low impact development (LID) is defined as:

...an approach to land development (or re-development) that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. LID employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features, minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treat stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product. There are many practices that have been used to adhere to these principles such as bioretention facilities, rain gardens, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels, and permeable pavements. By implementing LID principles and practices, water can be managed in a way that reduces the impact of built areas and promotes the natural movement of water within an ecosystem or watershed. Applied on a broad scale, LID can maintain or restore a watershed's hydrologic and ecological functions. LID has been characterized as a sustainable stormwater practice by the Water Environment Research Foundation and others.

LID can be applied to new development, redevelopment, or as retrofits to existing development. LID has been adapted to a range of land uses from high density ultra-urban settings to low density development.

Stormwater run-off

Stormwater run-off refers to water from precipitation that flows over land or impervious surfaces into bodies of water or sewer systems.