

# Tools for Building Collaboration and Community Engagement

Donna Drewes, PP/AICP

Co-Director Sustainability Institute at TCNJ  
and Sustainable Jersey Program



# SUSTAINABLE JERSEY ROLE

- Opportunities for Community Engagement
  - Role of Sustainable Jersey and Green Teams
    - 20 out of 21 CSO communities in program and 10 are certified
    - Current program actions support Green Infrastructure and Resiliency planning in communities
      - Rain gardens, rain barrels, impervious assessments (schools)
      - Community Education and Outreach
      - New model stormwater ordinance action pending
    - Advocates for Green Infrastructure Pilots and Comprehensive LTC Plan approach
  - Learning and Networking opportunities via Regional Hub



- Option to bring together 21 municipalities to share ideas

# SUSTAINABLE JERSEY ROLE

- Opportunities for Community Engagement
  - Role of Sustainable Jersey and Green Teams
    - Advocates for Green Infrastructure Pilots and Comprehensive LTC Plan approach
    - Funding for pilot projects –next Small Grants grant cycle due Feb.1, 2015 [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com) see Small Grants program current funding opportunities tab
    - \$10,000 and \$20,000 grants for municipal projects
  - Learning and Networking opportunities via Regional Hub
    - Option to bring together 21 municipalities to share ideas, explore approaches and expand technical knowledge



# Model Stormwater Ordinance Update

- NJDEP 2004 Model Stormwater Control Ordinance for Municipalities
  - With assistance from NRDC, a Sustainable Jersey Taskforce developed a model ordinance based on the 2004 NJDEP ordinance



# Model Stormwater Ordinance Update

- Why was the ordinance updated?
  - To reflect advances in stormwater management since 2004
- Who worked on the updates?
  - A workgroup of environmental/watershed advocates, engineers, academics, planners
- What's the status of the update?
  - Still under review by Sustainable Jersey



# Model Stormwater Ordinance Updates

The four most significant revisions:

1. Applicability of the ordinance
2. Stormwater retention requirement
3. Technical infeasibility provision
4. Alternative compliance provisions in cases of technical infeasibility



# Model Stormwater Ordinance Updates

## Applicability of the ordinance

- What is “development”?
  - Now includes land disturbing activities
- What is “major development”?
  - Now includes redevelopment
  - Size threshold lowered
- Option of including “minor development”
  - For projects under the “major” size threshold



# Model Stormwater Ordinance Updates

## Stormwater retention requirement

- Major: Retain 1.25-inch, 2-hour rainfall event on-site using green infrastructure
- Minor: For each 250 sq. ft. of impervious surface, retain 450 gallons of runoff on-site using GI
- Relationship to existing recharge, quantity, and quality requirements





# Model Stormwater Ordinance Updates

## Technical infeasibility provision

- Alternative compliance: treat 1.5x the volume not recharged or retained on-site
- What conditions could lead to infeasibility?
  - Dense development conditions
  - High industrial pollutant loadings in runoff
  - Adverse hydraulic impacts to water table



# Model Stormwater Ordinance Updates

But wait, there's more...

- Relationship to zoning approvals and building/construction permits
- Groundwater recharge volume calculation
- Neighborhood and regional scale practices
- Multiple drainage areas
- Maintenance of stormwater practices



# Model Stormwater Ordinance Updates

## One more thing to keep in mind:

- NJDEP is in the process of revising the statewide non-structural standards
- Possible impact on the model ordinance?
- Stay tuned in 2015!



Thank you

Donna Drewes, PP/AICP

[drewes@tcnj.edu](mailto:drewes@tcnj.edu)

609.771.2833

[www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com)

Small Grants Program Link –Due Feb. 1, 2015

<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants-resources/sustainable-jerseysmall-grants-program/current-opportunities/>

