

Getting Started with Integrated Planning

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Getting Started with Integrated Planning

- What can be integrated?
- Who can integrate?
- Who is developing integrated plans now?
- Is an integrated plan right for me?
- How do I get started?
- What else should I do?

What Can Be Integrated?

- Sanitary system
- Combined system
- Wastewater treatment plant
- Asset management program
- Long term operation & maintenance
- Storm water management
- Source water protection
- Nonpoint source control

What Can Be Integrated?

- NPDES obligations
- MS4 obligations
- TMDL obligations
- Consent decree obligations

Who Can Integrate?

- Scope tailored by community
- Any combination of entities
 - Municipality
 - Wastewater utility/sanitary district
 - Stormwater utility/MS4 authority
 - Watershed authority
- Varying geographic areas

Who Is Developing Integrated Plans Now?

- Small Midwestern community
 - Rust belt; dire financial conditions
 - Enforcement action focused on CSO, SSO, WWTP
 - Facing future MS4, nutrient TMDL, nutrient standards
 - Seeking flexibility through an integrated plan:
 - Avoid bankruptcy
 - Prioritize investments to address greatest water quality problems first
 - Establish reasonable levels of CSO/SSO control
 - Very long-term implementation schedule
 - Adaptive management as future nutrient, stormwater requirements are imposed
 - Incorporation of asset management needs

Who Is Developing Integrated Plans Now?

- Medium-sized Midwestern community
 - CSO enforcement action against City
 - SSO enforcement action against Sanitary District
 - Bacterial TMDL, future nutrient standards
 - Developing joint integrated plan:
 - Combined affordability analysis
 - Better incorporation of green infrastructure projects
 - Additional time if green performance not as expected
 - Extended implementation schedule, if necessary
 - Incorporate environmental justice concerns

Who is Developing Integrated Plans Now?

- Large Northeastern community
 - CSO issues
 - Collection system improvements
 - Long term operation & maintenance needs
 - Developed integrated plan:
 - Better coordination, prioritization of all CWA-related obligations
 - Incorporation of asset management needs
 - Long-term implementation schedule

Is an Integrated Plan Right for Me?

- Competing water-related obligations
- Multiple entities addressing watershed issues
- Economic limitations
- Need for coordination among agency programs
- Difficulty obtaining relief, flexibility
 - Compliance deadlines
 - Incorporation of green infrastructure
 - Anticipated future obligations → need for adaptive management
- Revisions needed to existing CSO, SSO plan

How Do I Get Started?

- Identify water-related obligations
- Define costs and timing requirements
- Quantify available resources
- Evaluate environmental and health impacts
- Prioritize activities
 - Achieve greatest environmental and health benefits within available resources
- Identify any legal relief needed to accommodate priorities and schedule

What Else Should I Do?

- Engage agencies early and often
 - Notice of intent to develop integrated plan
 - Meeting to discuss process
- Public education, outreach
 - Rate issues
 - Costs, benefits
 - Relief needed
- Consider political outreach
- Talk to other communities

Questions?

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