

INNOVATIVE STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Using Natural Mechanisms for Treatment

Innovative stormwater infrastructure, also known as green infrastructure, is being used to help address the clean water challenges that result from wet weather. Green infrastructure is helpful in capturing and retaining stormwater runoff that otherwise would go directly into the sewer system. This method for addressing water management challenges provides a tool to reduce flooding and sewer overflows while potentially improving cost savings and protecting our Nation's water resources.

Support *The Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act of 2013*

Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD) introduced legislation, *The Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act*, on November 13, 2013. The bill would offer critical support to improve our Nation's management of polluted runoff and sewer overflows through innovative stormwater strategies.

Specifically, the proposed legislation would:

- Encourage investment in planning, development and implementation of community-based green infrastructure projects.
- Ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water and other programs promote the use of innovative stormwater solutions in planning, research, funding guidance, technical assistance and permitting.
- Establish Centers of Excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure across the country to conduct research, develop proposals and industry standards, provide training and technical assistance to states, local governments, and collaborate with institutions of higher education and public and private organizations.
- Provide grants to communities to carry out innovative stormwater control infrastructure projects.

In addition to improving our nation's stormwater management, the programs supported by *The Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act* would increase innovation in the implementation of green infrastructure practices, create low-barrier to entry jobs in many different sectors associated with ongoing operations and maintenance efforts, reduce costs to treatment plants, reduce impacts from localized flooding and provide additional environmental, social and economic benefits to communities across the country.

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