

Rainfall to Results

○ THE FUTURE OF STORMWATER

Stormwater is the only growing source of water pollution in many watersheds across the country. With urban populations expected to grow to nearly 70% by 2050, and more frequent and intense storms occurring across the country, there is ever-increasing pressure on stormwater systems and water infrastructure.

While the challenges of stormwater management appear to be vast, overcoming them creates a unique opportunity for governments, industry, academia, and civil society to further advance sustainability, resilience, and community livability.

Rainfall to results: the future of stormwater shows that we need a fundamental shift in the way we think about stormwater if we are going to adapt to increased challenges from urbanization and other pressures. Based on input from leading stormwater professionals,

the report presents a vision for the future in which all stormwater will be considered a reusable resource and managed through an optimized mix of affordable and sustainable green, gray, and natural infrastructure.

The report is the first product of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Stormwater Institute and charts a path forward for the sector with broad objectives and specific actions for achieving a healthier water environment.

RAINFALL TO RESULTS

THE FUTURE OF STORMWATER

ABOUT THE REPORT

Rainfall to results: the future of stormwater details the challenges, opportunities, and pathways to improving the nation's stormwater systems to make them more efficient, effective, and sustainable.

According to the report, achieving the envisioned future will require attention and action from across the stormwater sector and beyond. These actions will lead to a world in which stormwater is considered a resource that is actively and efficiently managed and allows for continuous improvements and community benefits.

The report identifies six objectives that are central to sustainable stormwater management:

- **Work at the watershed scale** – all communities will have integrated, watershed-scale assessments of water resources needs and challenges.
- **Transform stormwater governance** – stormwater regulations will stimulate stormwater control innovation and performance improvement by focusing on program outcomes.
- **Support innovation and best practices** – a broad suite of verified stormwater controls and best practices will support confident planning and maintenance.
- **Manage assets and resources** – stormwater systems will be maintained through robust asset management programs and supported by innovative information technology.
- **Close the funding gap** – communities will align stormwater management efforts with broader community goals to garner funding options and have access to innovative financing opportunities.
- **Engage the community** – communities will understand and value the contribution stormwater management makes to flood risk reduction, clean and safe water, climate resiliency, and other benefits.



MOVING FORWARD

Stormwater management has taken great strides from where it began. The sector now has a unique opportunity to advance sustainability, resiliency, and community livability. It is a maturing sector that is poised for major growth.

The report lays out an action plan for achieving these objectives and marks the beginning of an ongoing dialogue that will be critical to record new successes, identify new challenges, and refine the path forward.

If undertaken, the actions and objectives outlined in *Rainfall to results: The future of stormwater* will lead to improved and more sustainable stormwater management by enabling beneficial synergies. These synergies will enable stormwater management to become a critical part of routine urban planning, ultimately helping communities across the country better adapt to changing environments.



The WEF Stormwater Institute, launched in June 2015, will serve as a center of excellence to address the growing issues around stormwater runoff. This hub for technical information, networking, and policy advocacy will expand upon and leverage ongoing and proposed WEF programs. It will initially focus on developing technical tools, communication strategies, professional training, and networking opportunities for stormwater practitioners worldwide. This new venture will be housed within the Water Environment Federation (WEF) to take advantage of the organization's existing leadership, breadth of membership, and varied partnerships with federal, state, and local entities responsible for managing stormwater. To learn more, visit www.wefstormwaterinstitute.org.



The Alexandria, Va.-based Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.