

Decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping light blue circles of varying sizes, some with double outlines, scattered across the page.

YOUR SOURCE FOR **STORMWATER** SOLUTIONS

With the support of dedicated industry leaders, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) has the stormwater sector covered through access to stormwater news, education, and training opportunities, as well as policy support and advocacy. The WEF Stormwater Institute fills the vacuum of national stormwater leadership and advance support of professionals in a water sector poised for major growth.

THE NEED FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Stormwater is the only growing source of water pollution in many watersheds across the country, with more than 80% of impairments in U.S. waters stemming from nonpoint and urban stormwater discharges. As urban areas grow and climate changes, the issue of stormwater management will only escalate in importance. Currently, combined sewer overflows occur in nearly 800 U.S. cities, primarily in older urban centers on the East and West Coasts. Because of these overflows, billions of gallons of wastewater spill directly into urban waterways, and U.S. cities are spending billions of dollars to address the issue under long-term control plans and legally binding consent decrees. Further, about 7,500 Phase I and II municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) communities, as well as industrial and construction sites, must comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. These permits document how entities will address not only the quantity of runoff but also its quality. To fund stormwater infrastructure, more than 1,400 communities have stormwater user fees. However, funding still is identified as one of the key challenges facing the stormwater sector. Additionally, although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency deferred promulgation of a national stormwater rule, litigation on numerous aspects of the Clean Water Act related to stormwater is taking place across the country.

At national meetings, stormwater stakeholders identified WEF as the entity best suited to provide national leadership in this space. To that end, WEF has established the WEF Stormwater Institute and continues to develop products and programs under the Institute to further the stormwater sector. For more information, visit www.wefstormwaterinstitute.org.





THE WEF STORMWATER INSTITUTE

The WEF Stormwater Institute (SWI) serves as a center of excellence to address the growing issues of stormwater management. This hub for technical information, networking, and policy advocacy expands and leverages ongoing and proposed WEF programs. It focuses on developing technical tools, communication strategies, professional training, and networking opportunities for stormwater practitioners worldwide. WEF brings existing programs within the structure of the SWI to optimize resources. Such programs include:

- the Stormwater Testing and Evaluation for Products and Practices (STEPP)
- the National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards
- WEFTEC Stormwater Congress

Other programs include:

- National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP)
- Online Learning
- Stormwater Management Magazine
- *Stormwater Report* Online Newsletter
- *Water & Environment Technology* Magazine

The SWI serves as a conduit of information and feedback between the stormwater and regulator communities. It benefits many stakeholder groups including:

- municipal agencies with responsibility for managing stormwater,
- individual stormwater and green infrastructure practitioners,
- technology providers,
- academics and researchers,
- state and federal regulators, and
- regional and state stormwater organizations.

www.wefstormwaterinstitute.org

To become a Subscriber, contact Marlou Gregory at MGregory@wef.org or 703-684-2400 Ext. 2460.



WHY WEF?

WEF's leadership in stormwater has grown significantly and has become central to the organization's mission to provide bold leadership, champion innovation, connect water professionals, and leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water worldwide. Since its establishment in 1928, WEF has developed a global reach and reputation as well as a proven ability to deliver high-quality products and services. WEF also assembles individuals and organizations to provide a forum where water quality discussions lead to consensus building and innovation. As a not-for-profit technical and educational organization, WEF uniquely is qualified to provide national stormwater leadership because of the expertise and dedication of its 34,000 members. Since its formation in 2011, WEF's Stormwater Committee has grown to more than 140 members, and is bolstered by support from other internal committees, WEF member associations worldwide, and external collaborating organizations. These leaders are the driving force behind WEF's robust Stormwater Congress program. Additionally, WEF is raising the level of professionalism in the stormwater sector by providing education and training opportunities that extend beyond the Stormwater Congress. These opportunities include WEF's growing library of stormwater technical publications, online courses, and webcasts. WEF publishes numerous high-quality technical publications, including *World Water: Stormwater Management* and *Water Environment & Technology*, which support the SWI mission and goals. Finally, WEF's policy and regulatory team provide support on the SWI's policy, regulatory, and advocacy efforts.

