

CITY OF DETROIT
GREEN TASK FORCE
WATER SUB-COMMITTEE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES & GUIDELINES

GREEN TASK FORCE - WATER SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting Highlights

Water Sub-Committee (WSC) Discussion - addressed several questions

To frame the issues around Water in Detroit, and to discuss the environmental impact of stormwater and water quality, the following questions were introduced:

A. What are the most pressing issues about water Detroit? Is it about drinking water or stormwater?

- In the discussion around water, the WSC expressed interest in focusing on:
 - 1) Stormwater runoff management
 - 2) Stormwater pollution prevention
 - 3) Water (drinking water) use efficiency and reuse
 - 4) Wastewater and grey water reuse
- Detroit Water & Sewage Department (DWSD) representatives outlined a quick history on DWSD issues with EPA, and Detroit's combined sewer system (CSS) and combine sewer overflows (CSO's). Also presented a timeline of events and trends that are leading towards a more practical and economical approaches in dealing with stormwater management at the source.
- DWSD also expressed that big infrastructure projects such as tunnel type projects to deal with CSO are being re-evaluated and are not considered feasible option.
- DWSD indicated that Detroit drinking water is among the best in the nation.
- WSC felt that education and outreach to address stormwater management is very essential in educating residents and business about stormwater runoff and pollution.

B. What should the group advance in terms of revising city policies, codes and guidelines?

- The WSC felt that one of the most practical strategies that we might want to promote immediately for residential properties is downspout disconnection. This has been looked at by DWSD and the practice can legally be implemented.
- The WSC felt that it might be prudent to have an audit of what we have in the books in terms of what is required of the developer in terms of dealing with stormwater runoff.
- There are some developers that would like to deal with stormwater on-site and implement new strategies to capture, use stormwater and recycle its own waste water as to not burden the city's infrastructure (e.g. net zero on the system). The WSC felt these types of developments should be supported as pilot-projects or with partners, including the city.