

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

GREEN TASK FORCE Water Sub-committee (WSC) • October 28 Update

- The WSC of the Green Task Force met as a group twice so far, the first in September, and the second meeting was on 26 October.
- The WSC's purpose as a GTF sub-committee is to focus on water related issues/challenges, and focus on water as a component of and in the context of sustainability.
- What is meant by water related issues/challenges?
- The WSC was asked to discuss and identify key water related issues/challenges that are important to them (the community at large including, citizens, corporate, non-profit, City).
- The WSC reached a consensus on identifying a framework with key elements:
 1. Community outreach/education about water
 2. Water conservation/resources
 3. Water efficiency/energy
 4. Stormwater best management practices (e.g. addressing urban runoff)
 5. Wastewater management and reuse
 6. New systems/technologies/innovations
 7. Regional cooperation/Water affordability
- Based on the WSC's discussions, it seems that addressing urban stormwater runoff is a topic that is on everyone's mind for the time being. The reason is the urgent need to reduce the burden on the City's existing and aging infrastructure to handle and treat stormwater.
- The WSC felt that among the best practices to reduce the burden on the City's combined storm and sewer is the need for a downspout disconnection program, which the WSC needs to provide details on how it should be done, identify the costs involved; who pays for it; and provide education/outreach.
- The WSC would like to propose the downspout disconnection as an amendment to the City code; and would like get the support of the Green Task Force. In the meantime, the WSC is contemplating other ways to provide support for the amendment to the municipal code including a support letter.
- The WSC intends to provide a set of basic understanding, baseline information or common knowledge about this particular downspout disconnection program and other proposed actions that we might need to bring to the table.
- The WSC hopes the baseline information and inventory baseline data would inform the work on formulating a water agenda for Detroit, a collection of water related challenges, with a set of actions to address them. We would like to call this a Detroit Water Agenda.
- The Detroit Water Agenda will be the WSC's deliverable to the GTF in the coming months.
- The WSC will give an update on the downspout disconnection program in the next meeting.
- All information produced by the WSC's will be shared via multiple forms including the web, handouts and meetings.