



Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities

How businesses can reduce runoff pollution

Some businesses are in town, some businesses are in the country, but all businesses are in a watershed.



Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- Spans almost half the state
- Covers all or part of 43 counties
- Is home to approximately 4 million Pennsylvanians
- Includes 1,000 boroughs, townships, and cities
- Includes about 33,000 farms
- Contains over 49,000 miles of rivers and streams
- Includes Susquehanna River Basin and Potomac River Basin

watershed: an area of land where all the water flows toward the lowest point, usually a stream, lake, or river. The watershed then eventually drains into larger bodies of water, such as the Chesapeake Bay and Lake Erie.

IMPAIRED: Over 15,000 Miles of Streams and Rivers

Agricultural, business, and residential development have changed Pennsylvania's landscape, replacing natural areas with hard surfaces such as compacted soil, parking lots, roads, and roofs. Rainfall that would naturally soak into the ground and be absorbed by tree and vegetation roots now "runs off" these hard surfaces. This stormwater runoff carries pollutants from these surfaces into streams, rivers, and lakes.

Everyone adds to the pollutant loads our waterways are carrying:

- nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) from manure and other crop fertilizers
- road salt
- sediment (eroded dirt)
- viruses and bacteria from pet waste or faulty septic systems
- vehicle fluids and other toxic contaminants
- lawn fertilizers and pesticides
- cigarette butts and other litter

LIGHTEN THE LOAD: 5 Ways Businesses Can Reduce Runoff Pollution

1. Regularly inspect and maintain your required post-construction stormwater management (PCSM) measures and share this information with your municipality.
2. If your site includes a stream, plant trees and other vegetation on the banks—it's the most effective thing you can do beyond PCSM measures.



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3. **Retrofit existing PCSM measures** to modernize and improve their function.
4. **Partner with local municipalities** for bigger pollutant reductions!
 - **Case in point:** An extended detention basin in an office park will provide some water quality benefit, but if the office park borders an impaired stream and owners of several properties along the stream give the local municipality an easement to do a stream restoration project, the water quality benefit will be much greater.
5. **Contact your county government** to find out how your business's stormwater management actions can be credited in the countywide plan to reduce nutrient and sediment levels in local streams and rivers.

A healthy watershed is a highly functioning natural system:

- Provides water for drinking, farming, business, and household use.
- Helps prevent loss of land from erosion.
- Makes soil healthier for better crop yield.
- Helps absorb carbon dioxide from the air.
- Offers super fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, and more outdoor recreation.
- Reduces flooding and need for flood damage repair, as more soil is available to absorb rainfall.
- Keeps water bills in check by reducing treatment plant processing.
- Improves property value and local tax revenue, as people want to live near access to green space and healthy waters.

Green infrastructure: Business benefits

Green infrastructure that reduces stormwater runoff pollution can also increase property values, lower utility costs by saving energy and water, attract customers, and boost sales. Consumers are willing to spend 8-10 percent more, visit more often, and travel farther to shop where there is attractive green infrastructure, according to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Businesses Helping to Lighten the Load

Ice cream and beverage company Turkey Hill Dairy, Lancaster County: Co-founded the Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership to help Pennsylvania dairy farmers that supply milk to the company develop water quality conservation plans and paying a premium to those who carry out conservation practices.

Mack Trucks Remanufacturing Center, Dauphin County: Installed erosion controls and a retention pond and put covers on their motors. "With our close proximity to the Susquehanna River and its tributaries, it's our utmost responsibility to reduce and eliminate storm water runoff pollution." Chesapeake Bay Watershed."

– Jerry Resh, Quality, Safety & Environmental Manager



The Plan: Healthier Waters in Pennsylvania's Share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by 2025

Over 1,000 Pennsylvanians, along with DEP and the Departments of Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources, have developed a state plan to lower nutrient and sediment loads in streams and rivers in the watershed.

GOALS:

- Nitrogen load reduced by 34 million pounds/year
- Phosphorus load reduced by 0.765 million pounds/year
- Sediment load reduced by 531 million pounds/year

Community leaders and partners are working on each county's part of the state plan. Learn more about your Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan Countywide Action Team and how you can help, too:

www.dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3