This enewsletter from the Delaware Coastal Training Program (CTP) features resources that are available for Delaware's community leaders and natural resource managers to help us plan smarter for safer and more sustainable communities in our state! These updates will include highlights on upcoming trainings, tools, technical assistance programs, and funding sources from the CTP as well as other local practitioners and technical experts. This enewsletter will be distributed quarterly - please be in touch if you have more updates to share or are looking for additional information!

Upcoming Trainings and Webinars

Seven Best Practices for Risk Communitication

March 15, 2016
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM EST

On-line Live webinar from the NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Free event, registration required. Follow the link below to sign up:
http://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/riskcommmarch/event/event_info.html

About the Webinar
Whether preparing for the next big event or for the future in a changing climate, sometimes just starting the conversation can be difficult. Keeping people engaged and motivated to prepare for hazards can be even more challenging. Using risk communication best practices can help. This 90-minute interactive webinar introduces participants to seven best practices, numerous

Who should take this course?
This course is targeted for a broad cross section of professionals involved in emergency management, planners, building and zoning officials, mitigation specialists, developers, engineers, architects, and property managers.

Application on the Job:
•Apply seven risk communication best practices and techniques
•Use the fundamentals of behavior change to improve communication
•Adapt successful strategies from case studies of peers who have applied these best practices and techniques

techniques, and examples for how to more effectively communicate about coastal hazards. Whether you are just starting, or trying to keep people motivated to better prepare for future hazards, applying risk communication principles can lead to more effective conversations and products.

For additional course or registration information, e-mail: ocm.training@noaa.gov

Participant Requirements:
•Internet and speakers
•Adobe Connect (software and user instructions will be provided in advance)

Creating a Flood Ready Community

Friday, May 20, 2016 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
University of Delaware Paradee Center, 69 Transportation Circle, Dover, DE

Check-in begins at 8:30 am. Catered lunch and networking session will immediately follow the training, from noon - 1 PM

Registration Deadline: May 18, 2016

Register Now At*:
http://www.ipa.udel.edu/events.html

About the Course
This course, held in partnership with the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration, Delaware Sea Grant and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources, reviews the multiple sources of flood risks to Delaware communities that can be addressed and mitigated through planning, codes, and ordinances. It begins with an overview of flood risks, covers floodplain requirements for municipalities, and discusses statewide sea level rise adaptation recommendations applicable at the community level. Tools for adapting to flood risk and sources of funding and technical assistance will also be introduced. See Event Flyer for additional details.

**A limited number of registration fee waivers are available for municipal officials, based on financial need. Fees will be covered by the Delaware Coastal Training Program. To request a fee waiver, please email Kelly Valencik, Coastal Training Program Coordinator at kelly.valencik@state.de.us. All other registrations*

Who should take this course?
This course is targeted towards municipal officials including town managers, council members, building and zoning officials, planners, and property managers.

Course Topics

- Identifying Community Flood Risks
- Assessing Vulnerability to Flooding
- Strategies for Reducing Flood Vulnerability
- Funding and Technical Assistance

This session qualifies for certificate credit in the University of Delaware's Academy for Excellence in Local Government Leadership, and the Delaware Planning Education Program.

Three CM AICP credits will be available for participating American Planning Association professionals.

for this event must be submitted through IPA's online event-registration system.

Community Resources and Tools

Freeboard in Delaware - Story Map

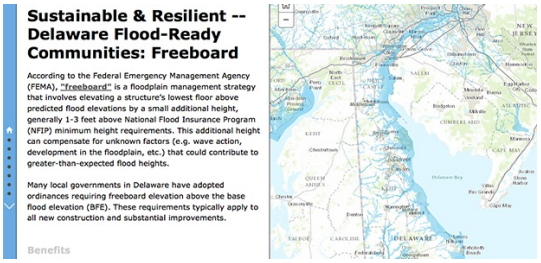
The Institute for Public Administration (IPA) at the University ofDelaware has prepared a "Flood-ReadyCommunities" section within its online *Delaware Complete CommunitiesPlanning Toolbox* that features a GISStory Map on Freeboard in Delaware.

A solution to flooding: Freeboard

Delaware is extremely susceptible to the dangers of flooding. Many local governments in Delaware have adopted ordinances requiring freeboard elevation above the base flood elevation (BFE). These requirements typically apply to all new construction and substantial improvements. One of the main benefits of freeboard, aside from significantly reducing flood damage risk to a property, is the substantial cost-savings on flood insurance.

See how freeboard works

This GIS StoryMap showcases "freeboard" as a tool to achieve a Sustainable and Resilient community. When adopted as part of a floodplain management strategy, freeboard can create Flood-Ready Communities that are prepared to protect and preserve properties and lives. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),"freeboard" is a floodplain management strategy that involves elevating a structure's lowest floor above predicted flood elevations by a small additional height, generally 1-3 feet above National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum height requirements. This additional height can compensate for unknown factors (e.g. wave action, development in the floodplain, etc.) that could contribute to greater-than-expected flood heights.



More information

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has developed model floodplain ordinances for communities to adopt. Some of the model ordinances include Senate Bill 64 Floodplain and Drainage Advisory Committee Recommendations for communities wishing to adopt higher floodplain standards, including freeboard requirements. Additionally, Delaware Sea Grant has produced the Delaware Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards, which guides residents on practical measures they can take to maximize safety and minimize damage to their property and their lives.

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

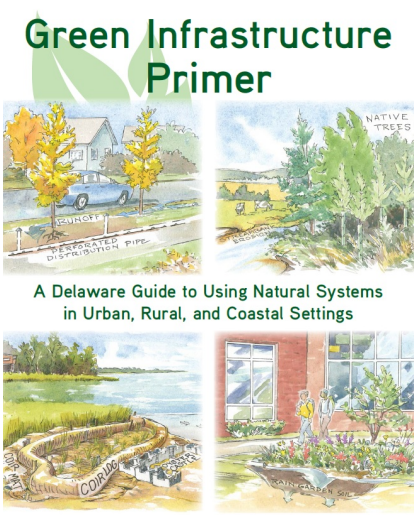
Using Nature-Based Solutions: Green Infrastructure Primer

A new how-to guide for using nature as a key part of community planning
Publication by the Delaware Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Division of Energy and Climate

What is Green Infrastructure?
Green infrastructure is a nature-based approach that uses a combination of engineering and nature's own processes to address environmental challenges to our communities like erosion, flooding, and air and water pollution. Plants and soils naturally filter pollutants out of water and air, and absorb rain and stormwater to reduce flooding and runoff after storms. Plants also lock their roots into the soil, preventing erosion, and absorb nutrients that can be carried off of land.

Green infrastructure-- including rain gardens, green roofs, living shorelines, and others-- maximizes on these services that nature already provides through strategic placement, protection, and development.

Why Should I Consider it in My Community?
Communities spend thousands of dollars every year to treat drinking water and manage stormwater run off, but it is more cost effective and simpler to prevent water pollution and flooding naturally - by protecting and restoring areas around sources of drinking water like wetlands, than it is to treat water after it has been contaminated. Additionally, in coastal communities, areas like wetlands are the first line of defense to slow down and absorb storm surges and hurricane winds. Yet everyday some of our state's most important tidal wetlands are being lost to erosion and sea level rise. It is important to recognize the value natural areas have in protecting our communities, and how they can work in concert with existing man-made infrastructure and engineered solutions. These natural processes should be invested in and integrated into community planning and code updates.



Green Infrastructure Primer
When a community is considering investments in new infrastructure, they should also examine existing scientific and economic data to evaluate the costs and benefits of protecting natural areas and using similar nature-based solutions that would provide equivalent benefits to the community.
Governor Markell's Executive Order 41 directs state agencies to prioritize natural systems and green infrastructure as strategic tools for building Delaware's resiliency in the face of climate change. The Green Infrastructure Primer developed by the DNREC Division of Energy and Climate provides an introduction to green infrastructure projects and their benefits, as well as information on selecting, building, and maintaining them.

Access a full, digital copy of the Primer here, or call the Division at 302-735-3480 to request a print copy. For more information, please consult these resources from the DNREC Division of Energy and Climate.

Funding Opportunities

DNREC Water Quality Improvement Grants RFP

Call for community water quality projects
Request for Proposals from the DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship is now accepting project proposals for matching grants for community water quality improvement projects to improve water quality in impaired watersheds with established total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). The Community Water Quality Improvement Grant assists in implementing projects or programs to improve water quality on developed lands consistent with specific plans developed for watershed improvements. Proposals must be received by March 17, 2016.

Who Should Apply?
Applicants may be any Delaware non-profit organization, conservation district, community organization, and/or homeowner's association within the State of Delaware. Applicants may submit up to two project proposals per grant cycle. Preference is given to projects involving cooperative partnerships and sponsors without a dedicated source of funds for repayment of Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans.

Proposals must be submitted by March 17 to Sharon.Webb@state.de.us (with "Community Water Quality Improvement Grant" in the subject field). Project guidelines and the application can be found on DNREC's website on the Community Water Quality Improvement Grants page. For more information, contact Sharon Webb at 302-739-9922.

Past Grant Recipient Project:
Bio-enhancement to Improve Estuarine Habitat and Water Quality of Poorly-Flushed Residential Canals.
Floating wetlands and oyster castles were installed by the Center for Inland Bays to improve the water quality in South Bethany's canals.

photo credit: Center for Inland Bays

DNREC Wastewater Matching Planning Grant RFP

Call for wastewater and surface water projects
Request for Proposals from the DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship and the Office of Environmental Finance

Who Should Apply?
State, county and municipal governments and governmental subdivisions.

For a Wastewater Matching Planning Grant, the project guidelines and the application can be found online by clicking Wastewater Matching

DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship and the office of Environmental Finance are now accepting project proposals for matching grants for wastewater and surface water project planning. Proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m. March 17, 2016.

What kind of projects are eligible?
Eligible projects include planning, preliminary engineering, and feasibility analysis of: wastewater projects; stormwater retrofits; green technology practices; stream and wetland restoration projects; small watershed studies; master surface water and drainage plans, and other source water pollution control projects.

Planning Grant. A grant informational workshop is held twice a year (July and December) to discuss the particulars of the grant.

Click here for guidelines and application form. Proposals must be submitted by email (less than 10 MB) to Greg.Pope@state.de.us.

As a part of our mission, the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is committed to promoting informed decision making through the Delaware Coastal Training Program. This program addresses critical coastal resource management issues in Delaware by providing current scientific information, access to technologies and skill-building opportunities to Delawareans responsible for making decisions about the state's coastal resources.

Requests for submittal: Have a great resource, training, or program that you want to share with community leaders and natural resources managers to help make Delaware communities safer and more sustainable? Please submit information for inclusion in this e-newsletter to the contact below by April 15 (for spring issue), July 15 (summer), October 15 (fall).

Visit our Website

Kelly Valencik | Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve | 302-739-6377
kelly.valencik@state.de.us | http://de.gov/dectp

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