

## **Nine Principles for state support of an Urban BMP Cost-Share Program**

1. Local governments should commit to assist with the promotion of urban Best Management Practices (BMPs). Citizen education activities about the function and maintenance of urban BMPs should be included as elements of the local Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit program for both regional facilities and dispersed local and individual facilities.
2. Local government should be in support of urban BMPs being implemented through a state cost-share program and incorporate the practices into their infrastructure. They should acknowledge their function and establish long-term maintenance requirements.
3. Local governments should demonstrate recognition of stormwater as a source water resource. Stormwater should be retained and used for non-potable uses where feasible.
4. Where the need for a BMP can be negated in future development by a change to local ordinances, etc., assistance should be provided for retrofits only when the local government has or is taking steps to change the ordinances to address future development. Otherwise, development expands more rapidly than retrofitting, and water quality is degraded.
5. Structural BMPs that control water quantity and/or quality should be recognized by the local government and incorporated into the local stormwater management system. They should be recorded, tracked and maintained.
6. Education programs for “behavioral change” (non-structural BMPs), such as nutrient management for lawns and rain barrels for non-potable use, should be supported and promoted by the local government.
7. Local governments managing watersheds for water supply should have associated watershed water quality plans that include appropriate urban BMPs, both structural and the non-structural management and ongoing citizen outreach actions.
8. Local governments should consider tax incentives, reduced stormwater utility charges and/or reduced water/sewer billings or other incentives for homeowners who incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) practices into their landscape and achieve moderate levels of runoff control, infiltration and non-potable reuse. Lost local revenue can be sought for reimbursement by the local government from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) through the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF).
9. Local governments can support and enhance the acceptance and installation of LID practices by individuals and businesses if they clarify what the desired practices are and facilitate bulk purchases of materials for resale to community members.