

A Community-Based Approach to Long-Term Stormwater Planning

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How did we get here?

- EPA met with states, communities, businesses, industry groups, academia, and NGOs about the best ways to improve stormwater programs.
- Communities cannot afford to wait to address the flooding and public health hazards of stormwater.
- Many cities have found that an effective, comprehensive approach to managing stormwater includes green infrastructure practices that complement gray infrastructure to manage rain where it falls.

What do communities want?

- Invest in infrastructure that promotes economic development and builds attractive communities (*get the biggest bang for the buck*).
 - Integrate stormwater with economic development, transportation, recreation and other long term planning efforts so investments provide multiple benefits to citizens.
 - Avoid missed opportunities by syncing capital improvements, like road improvements and downtown revitalization, with stormwater controls to control flooding and pollution.
 - Focus on multi-benefit projects that take advantage of untapped funding sources.
- Asset management programs and sustainable financing strategies that build capacity to support reliable infrastructure.
- Identify efficiencies and sequence investments to successfully meet Clean Water Act obligations.

Our Efforts: A Three Pronged Approach

Our objective is to provide all communities with the tools and technical resources to implement a community-based approach for long-term stormwater planning:



“Guide”

Draft Guide for Long-term Stormwater Planning

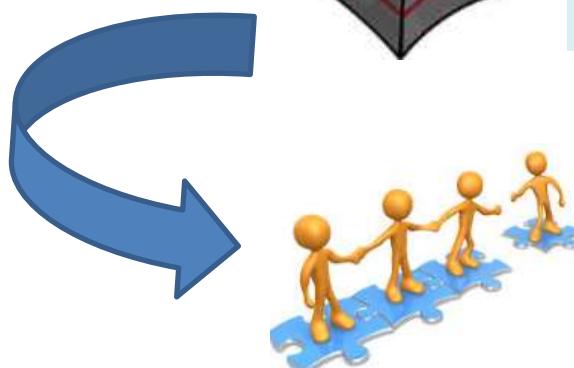
Outline key elements and process for developing long-term stormwater plans so communities invest in development that aligns with their community identity, sustainability and resiliency to reduce costs.



“Toolkit”

Provide an online stormwater planning toolkit to help communities develop long-term stormwater plans

Help communities identify federal resources and tools that can help them develop their plans.



“Technical Assistance”

Provide Technical Assistance to Communities

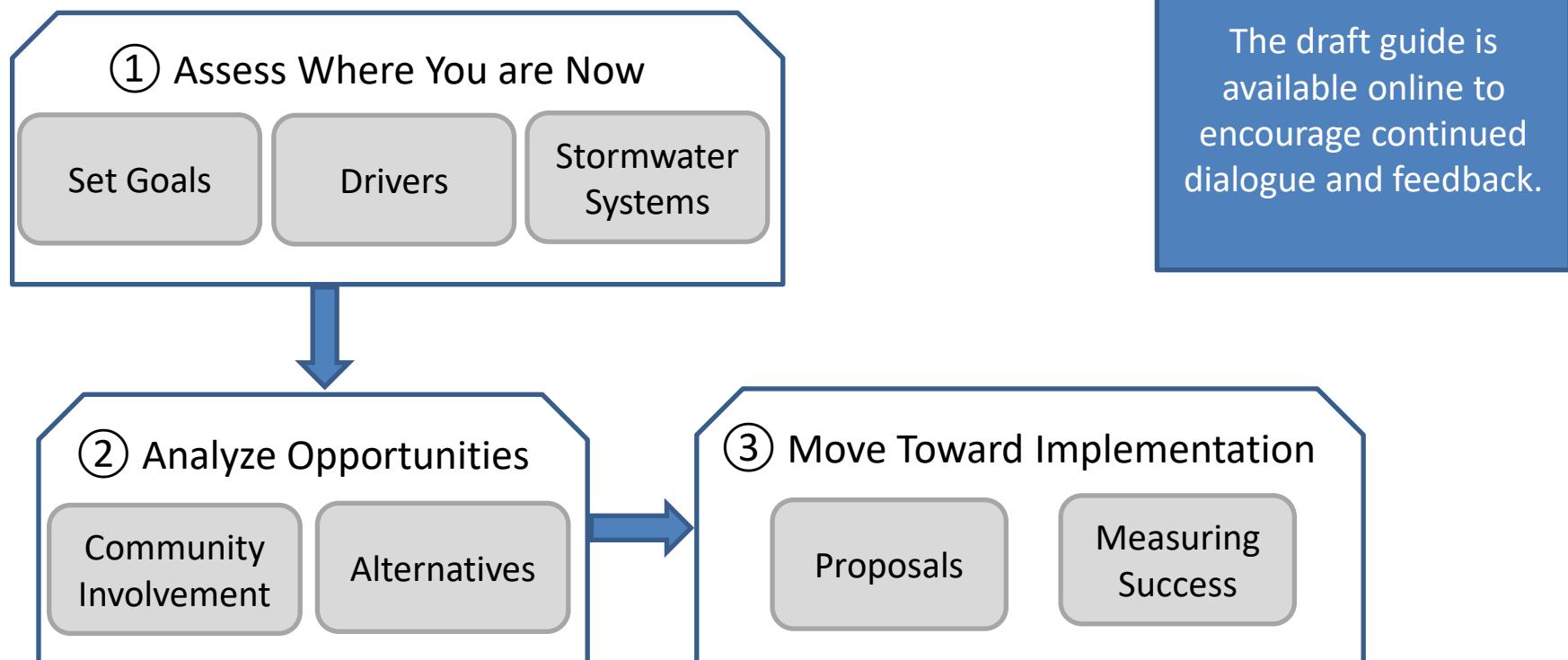
Work with 5 communities to test tool and develop plans.

Community-based Solutions for Stormwater Management: A Guide for Voluntary Long-Term Planning (Draft)

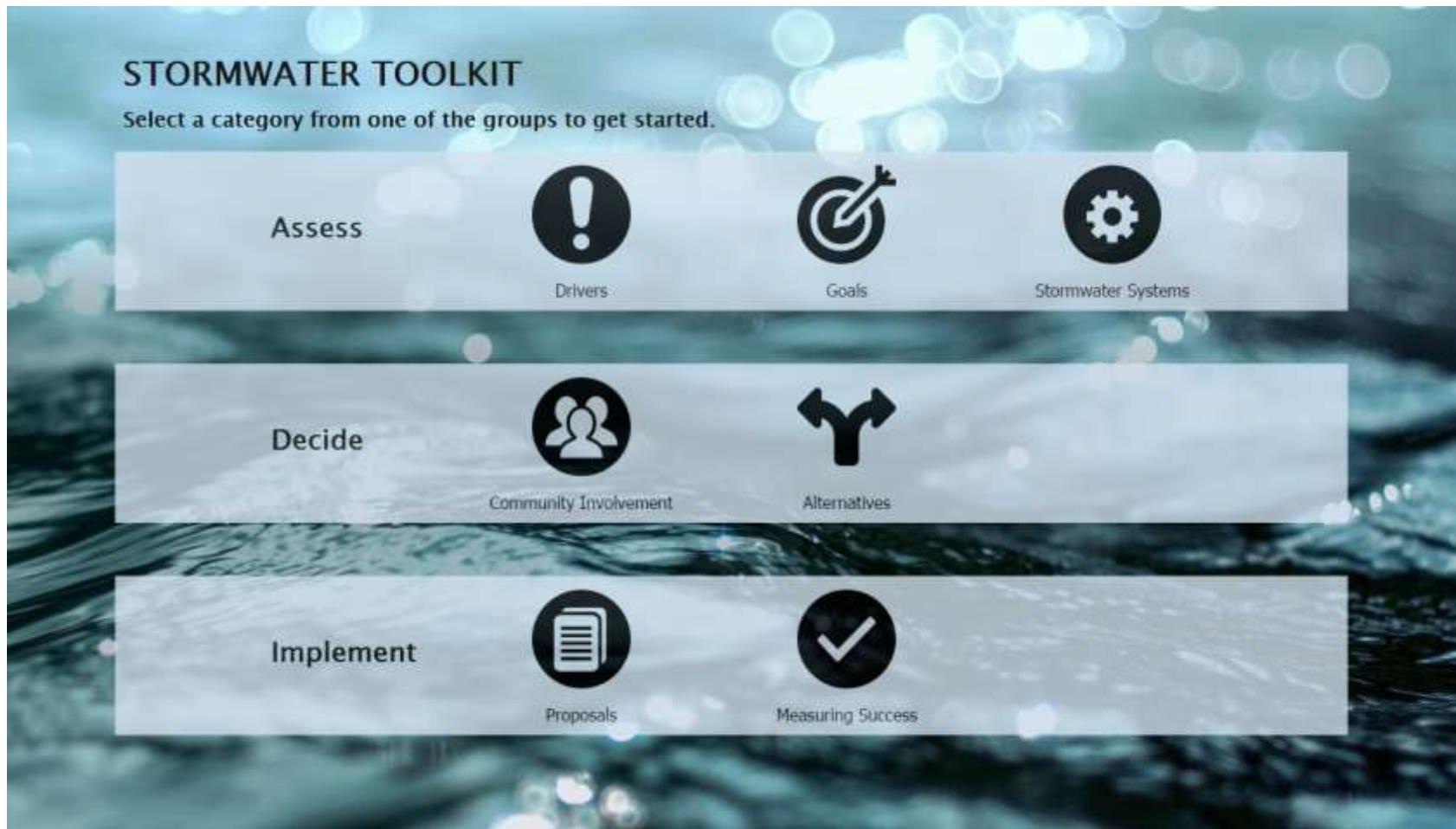
Developed based on sustained engagement with key partners including states, communities, business/industry groups, academia and nongovernmental organizations.



It includes 3 steps:



Initial Mockup of Toolkit



The Stormwater Toolkit walks the user through the steps to develop a long-term stormwater plan. The steps correspond to those outlined in the Guide.

Toolkit



Based on their answers to the series of questions, users will access the most relevant resources including:



Existing tools



Existing documents



Funding sources

Targeted Community Help



- EPA is working with 5 communities to develop long-term stormwater plans using the draft guide.
- They will pilot implementation of this approach while providing valuable feedback to improve the Toolkit prior to the public release.
- Results for this assistance will serve as a resource for communities nationwide.



Goals of Long Term Plans

The five communities are interested in pursuing similar goals for their long term stormwater plans:

- Develop Asset Management Program
- Manage Flooding
- Sustainably Finance a Stormwater Program
- Create and Implement Stormwater Development Standards and Educate developers
- Integrate Stormwater into Downtown Redevelopment areas and other Economic Development Plans
- Pursue Stormwater Opportunities in Transportation Projects
- Improve Water Quality and Manage Water Holistically
- Increase Collaboration Throughout the Local Watershed
- Increase the Resiliency to Urban Heat and Water Demand



For More Information

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-planning>