Did You Know?

Did you know that rooftops are one of the largest contributors to the total rainfall volume that ends up in the street and sewer system? Disconnecting downspouts and redirecting the flow to a rain barrel, cistern or rain garden are great alternatives in diverting stormwater away from the sewer system. For businesses with flat-roofed buildings, converting a conventional roof to a green roof can greatly reduce the volume of rainfall into the public sewer.

Did you know that the use of green infrastructure can reduce stormwater run-off and save taxpayer dollars? It's true! By reducing the amount of water volume that has to be stored, treated and discharged through the METRO, taxpayers can see a savings on local sewer use rates.

Did you know that the installation of a green roof can provide savings on heating and cooling bills? Green roofs absorb heat and act as insulators for buildings, reducing energy needed to provide cooling and heating and last longer than traditional roofing systems.

Did you know that the cost of porous pavement is only slightly higher than or equal to traditional pavements? Porous application costs compare favorably to traditional applications and can last longer than traditional pavements.

This brochure is an informational guide to help business owners think about ways you can "Save the Rain" and prevent it from flowing into sanitary sewer and storm drains. Stormwater runoff can carry pollutants such as: leaves, soil, lawn debris, fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, antifreeze, grease and other chemicals into sanitary sewer and storm drains. This polluted water is sometimes discharged directly into Onondaga Lake. You can make a difference. Businesses can take several easy steps to reduce stormwater runoff. Every drop counts, and with your help we can keep Onondaga Lake clean!

www.**ongov.net**/savetherain

Learn more

More detailed information and instructions on these, and other ideas to Save the Rain can be found at **www.ongov.net/savetherain**

Save the Rain

For more information, please call or write to:

Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection

650 Hiawatha Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13204

Telephone: (315) 435-2260

Joanne M. Mahoney, County Executive
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Onondaga County Department of WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

It takes a community to Save the Rain

What *businesses* can do to help

What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is an environmentally friendly and sustainable solution for capturing stormwater runoff. The use of these natural or engineered systems, enhance overall environmental quality.

Why is green infrastructure so important?

Stormwater runoff can have a dramatic impact on the environment. During times of heavy rain or melting snow, sewers can overflow and discharge a combination of runoff and sanitary sewage called a *Combined Sewer Overflow* (CSO) into Onondaga Creek and Harbor Brook. This overflow eventually flows into Onondaga Lake. A *combined sewer overflow* system is designed to overflow in this way to prevent sewage from backing up into streets and basements.

Green infrastructure strategies provide environmentally friendly sustainable solutions for capturing rainwater where it lands. Green infrastructure solutions can reduce the amount of stormwater entering the sewer system which will lead to improved water quality of Onondaga Lake and its tributaries.

What you can do to help Save the Rain

Businesses can take several steps to prevent stormwater runoff. Here are 5 easy ways you can prevent stormwater runoff at your business:

Reduce impervious surfaces - Impervious surfaces include your roof, driveway, sidewalks and parking lots. Green roofs reduce rooftop runoff by utilizing vegetation on the rooftop to catch the rain where it lands. Or consider directing your downspouts to a rain garden or cistern, and not to the storm drain on your street. For your driveways, sidewalks and parking lots consider installing permeable paving. These types of surfaces allow stormwater to seep into the ground.

Sweep up litter - keeping debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains can prevent pollutants from entering the sewer system.

Utilize and maintain landscaping to prevent soil erosion – use native tree, shrubs and plants to beautify your site and absorb stormwater naturally. Also, be sure to properly maintain existing landscaping to prevent soil erosion.

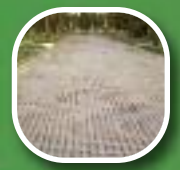
Use and dispose of chemical products properly – Anytime you use gasoline, paint, motor oil, fertilizer, pesticides or any other chemicals **DO NOT** dispose of them by pouring them down drains. Businesses should contact the Onondaga County Resource and Recovery Agency for instructions on disposal of these products.

Get involved – learn more about stormwater runoff and ways you can help reduce pollution.

Green Solutions

There are several examples of green infrastructure solutions. Below are the most common and effective green infrastructure applications:

Green roof is a roof that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil planted over a waterproofing membrane. Green roofs are used for stormwater management and energy savings, as well as for aesthetic benefits. Green roofs absorb stormwater and release it back into the atmosphere through evaporation and plant transpiration, while reducing urban temperatures.



Permeable paving (also known as pervious or porous pavement), is a term used to describe paving methods for roads, parking lots and walkways that allows precipitation to infiltrate through to the soil below.

Cistern is a receptacle for storing rain water. They range in capacity from a few liters to thousands of cubic meters. Owners benefit by reusing the water for landscaping and other activities thus reducing their water bill.

Rain garden is a sunken garden designed to absorb rainwater from impervious areas such as roofs, driveways, walkways, and compacted lawn areas. Rain gardens reduce runoff by allowing stormwater to soak into the ground, as opposed to flowing into storm drains and surface waters, which can cause erosion, water pollution, flooding, and diminished groundwater.