

the Rain events



GOING GREEN

eco-friendly alternative products and practices

Alternative practices and products to help your facility in going green.

Going green is actually highly advantageous to your facility because it improves water quality, encourages environmentally friendly practices, prioritizes Good Housekeeping, and implements safer or toxin free products. At a loss of where to begin? Try implementing some of these green alternative practices and products at your facility...

GREEN ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES:

Green Cleaning: Pick cleaning methods and products that are actually eco-friendly. However, beware, just because a product contains less toxins, does not mean it's necessarily a better solution for storm water quality. A non-toxic cleanser could have other unwanted storm water quality concerns such as elevating the pH, conductivity, nutrients, or oil & grease. For example, clay-based absorbents used to clean up oil spills are high in aluminum, iron, and other metals. If your facility is struggling to reduce metal thresholds, using a clay-based absorbent is only adding to your problem (even if you sweep it up and dispose of it properly, the fine clay dust will still linger until the next rain event).

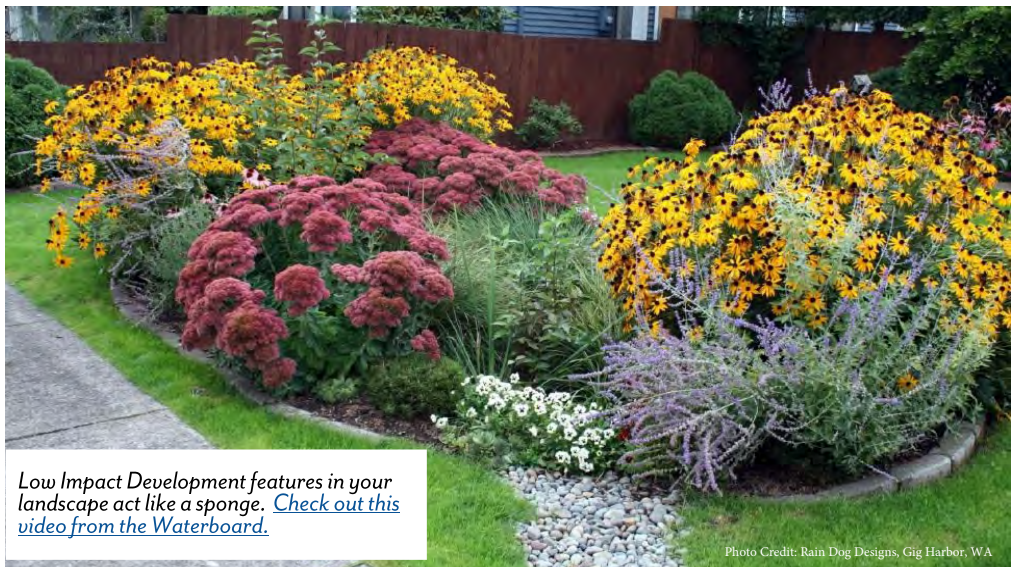
Low Impact Development: Implementing LID

You may have noticed that going green is trending – manufacturers are making eco-friendly products, liquid detergent is starting to come in a cardboard jug, all-natural labels are popping up everywhere. People are recycling, purchasing only organic and natural products, opting for reusable everything, and literally going green by growing tons of houseplants. So, what's all the rage about? Is going green applicable to industrial facilities? How can industrial facilities go green and is it worth all the effort? In honor of Saint Patrick's Day and all things green, this month's edition of **The Rain Events** will be dedicated to taking a closer look at some green alternative practices and products you can implement at your facility to help you go green too.

features into your facility's landscaping can help your storm water program by capturing and infiltrating storm water runoff. The more infiltration you have for the storm water on your site, the better chance you have of avoiding discharges and those dreaded NAL exceedances. Not to mention the fact that LID features can be so beautiful.

Reduce Water Usage: Instead of using water to clean problem areas of your facility, opt for dry sweeping, vacuuming, or

absorbents – the less water you use, the less of a chance there is of accidentally having a non-storm water discharge. Keeping your facility clean all the time will reduce the need for more intensive cleaning methods - plus your facility will look tidy, and the storm water entering and exiting your site will be less likely to pick up extra pollutants. Accidents happen, things get spilled, and some projects just generate a lot of mess, so if you do have to clean up a big mess, be sure and clean smart. Put protective measures in place to prevent



Low Impact Development features in your landscape act like a sponge. [Check out this video from the Waterboard.](#)

Photo Credit: Rain Dog Designs, Gig Harbor, WA

the pollutants from traveling any farther, clean it up quickly using safe absorbents, vacuum, sweep, and, if necessary, pressure wash (if pressure washing is required, be sure to implement pollution prevention practices like collecting wastewater for appropriate disposal and protecting nearby storm drains).

Safe and Eco-friendly Weed Control: It's that time of year when annoying weeds start popping up all over your landscaping and parking lot. Instead of reaching for a heavy-duty pesticide (pesticide exposure, by the way, has been linked to some types of cancer in humans), try using a safer and less toxic method. Find a pesticide that is naturally derived and doesn't contain those harmful chemicals. Or try using a propane torch and burn the weeds off your parking lot (*do not use this method in an area that has the potential for flammable vapors or liquids, and avoid using this method during the dry months. Also, be sure to always keep a hose on hand just in case things get a little crazy.*)

Preventative Maintenance: Fix potential problems before they happen. Maintain equipment and vehicles. Schedule regular waste pickups so hazardous waste, pollutants, and trash are not just sitting in the dumpster for months. Repair or replace containers that are leaking. Update your BMPs so they are in good working order. Regularly inspect your facility for potential issues and then fix any issues you find.

Keep it Covered & Contained: Keep materials and stockpiles covered or stored indoors. If possible, perform work tasks under a covered area to reduce exposure. Keep dumpsters and waste bins covered. Use drip pans and implement secondary containment around fueling stations, cleaning stations, and outdoor maintenance locations.

Smart Stockpiling: Instead of stockpiling excessive materials, only purchase the amount of bulk materials needed. Stockpiled materials that are stored outdoors can become problematic due to wind erosion and water runoff, which in turn could cause water quality issues. Not to mention the fact that all stockpiles need to be properly covered when not actively in use, or before a rain event occurs – which, if you have lots of excess materials, covering everything properly can be a headache.



GREEN ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS:

Once green practices have been established, supplement those practices with eco-friendly products. However make sure the products you are buying aren't **greenwashed** – a manufacturer labeling them as eco-friendly and natural when they're really nothing of the sort. For example, the "green" trash bags that are labeled as biodegradable and compostable, are often times no better than standard trash bags for pollution prevention and waste reduction. So do your research, and don't get greenwashed.

Green Absorbents: As mentioned above, clay-based absorbents can be high in metals, which may not be best to use at your facility if your storm water program is struggling to control metals in your storm water samples. When purchasing absorbents, opt for greener ones that are made with less or no clay – like Filtrex's product **BioLoxx** which is an absorbent derived from flax straw.

Switch to LED: Unlike fluorescent bulbs which each contain 4 to 5 milligrams of mercury, LED lights are free of any environmental hazards. Switching to LED lighting will help prevent the introduction of mercury into storm water from broken bulbs, and reduce overall energy consumption .

Choose Safe Products: A lot of cleaning products contain chemicals and toxins which are harmful to the environment and humans. If you are going to be using cleaning products in areas that may be exposed to storm water, choose toxin-free ones, so that any residue left behind isn't negatively affecting the environment. Try to avoid

detergents and cleaning products that contain salt compounds (this could kill vegetation), boron (can be toxic to microorganisms, vegetation, and aquatic life), chlorine (affects pH levels, and is deadly to aquatic life), alkaline compounds (also affects pH levels), or other chemicals which could damage the environment and be harmful to your health.

Use Reusable: The point of reusable products is to reduce waste – instead of offering paper cups at the cooler, encourage employees to bring their own refillable water bottles. When cleaning, instead of using disposable paper towels, use washable terry cloths or cleaning rags/cloths that are provided by a service (hiring a cleaning cloth service is a great green option – you'll be using reusable products, and the service will haul away the dirty rags to be cleaned, rather than you having to deal with wind blown trash or potentially hazardous waste depending on what you were cleaning up).

Going green is definitely applicable and needed at industrial facilities. And while green products may be great, green practices are even better. So think green, go green, be green, and buy green — you'll see that in the long run it's beneficial not only to the environment but also to you.

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A decorative border of green line-art leaves surrounds the central text. The leaves are stylized with fine lines and are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern.

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easy guide to **GOING GREEN**



CHOOSE GREEN PRACTICES:

Reduce, reuse, recycle. Conserve water usage by installing water efficient appliances and fixtures, and using smart irrigation systems for water landscaping. Conserve electricity. Practice Good Housekeeping BMPs such as dry sweeping and vacuuming. Use naturally derived pesticides or alternative weed extermination. Implement LID features in landscaping. Use LED lighting. Go solar powered. Do regular maintenance on equipment and vehicles to prevent leaks or spills. Properly implement your facility's storm water program.

CHOOSE GREEN PRODUCTS:

Choose safe products - cleaners, soaps, pesticides, absorbents, air fresheners, disinfectants, and etc. Opt for purchasing recycled products such as paper, office supplies, paper towels, and etc. When replacing lighting fixtures or appliances choose ones that are energy efficient and water conserving. Buy some indoor plants - they clean the air of pollutants and give off oxygen.



DO YOUR RESEARCH:

Don't get greenwashed. Do your research and find out which products are safe to use, what products aren't safe to use, and what ingredients in those soaps, cleaning products, and foods products are harmful for you and for the environment.

Download the free app from the EWG (Environmental Working Group). It allows you to scan products and see their toxicity ratings, browse safe products, and learn more about choosing safe and eco-friendly products.

Get the app: www.ewg.org/apps
Browse the EWG website: www.ewg.org



FORGE

RESTORE:

UNDOING DAMAGE FROM MAN AND NATURE

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Storm Water Contest...

Each month, we invite our readers to participate in a contest to test their knowledge of the Industrial General Permit and show their storm water compliance program. We enter all submittals to our monthly newsletter question into a drawing and one person is selected at random to receive a \$25 gift card. Last month's contest question was:

How did you show your facility a little tender loving care during the month of February?

Congratulations to Stephanie who answered our contest question - *"To show our facility a little tender loving care this month, we had extra maintenance performed on our roof and had an extra scrub on the exterior of our building. By doing so, we helped minimize any waste that went to the storm drain! We also installed a new cover over our trash cans to be extra careful if someone forgot to close the dumpster!"* Stephanie, we hope this Home Depot gift card helps with more TLC projects!

...This Month's Contest

In what ways are you incorporating green alternative practices and products into your facility?

We need industrial storm water sleuths to help us with this month's question. Submit your answers by Friday, April 2nd. Email your answer to jteravskis@wgr-sw.com. One winner will be selected by a random drawing to receive a \$25 gift card to *Amazon*.

GET SOCIAL:



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WANT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CRAFT? CHECK OUT [FORGE](#) - AN ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM.

The California Stormwater Industrial General Permit (IGP) glossary defines a Qualified Industrial Stormwater Practitioner (QISP) as:

“Only required once a Discharger reaches Level 1 status, a QISP is the individual assigned to ensure compliance with this General Permit or to assist New Dischargers with determining coverage eligibility for discharges to an impaired water body. A QISP’s responsibilities include implementing the SWPPP, performing the Annual Comprehensive Facility Compliance Evaluation (Annual Evaluation), assisting in the preparation of Annual Reports, performing ERAs, and training appropriate Pollution Prevention Team members. The individual must take the appropriate State-approved or sponsored training to be qualified. Dischargers shall ensure that the designated QISP is geographically located in an area where they will be able to adequately perform the permit requirements at all of the facilities they represent.”

Purposes Identified by the IGP for having QISPs

- To improve compliance and maintain consistent implementation of the IGP (Finding #49);
- To assist the Discharger and other on-site personnel with the implementation of IGP requirements (Finding #50);
- To have a high degree of technical knowledge and environmental experience in the assistance given to Dischargers (Fact Sheet p. 6);
- To improve the quality of the data submitted (Fact Sheet p. 20); and
- To avoid costly retrofits or closure of new facilities that cannot demonstrate that the facility will not cause or contribute to a 303(d) impairment (Fact Sheet p. 26).

Ten QISP Roles According to the IGP

1. May represent one or more facilities but must be able to perform the functions required by the IGP at all times (Fact Sheet p. 28).
2. Assigned to a facility that reaches Level 1 and Level 2 status (Fact Sheet p. 48).
3. More accurately identify discharge locations representative of the facility’s stormwater discharge (Fact Sheet p. 48).
4. Select and implement appropriate sampling procedures (Fact Sheet p. 48).
5. Evaluate and develop additional BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial stormwater discharges (Fact Sheet p. 48).
6. Assist with the completion of the Level 1 Evaluation and preparation of the Level 1 ERA Report (Fact Sheet p. 61).
7. Assist with the completion of the Level 2 ERA requirements and the preparation of the Level 2 Action Plan & Level 2 Technical Reports (Fact Sheet p. 62).
8. Assist New Dischargers in preparing the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and monitoring program in addition to gaining coverage for New Dischargers that discharge directly to an impaired water body (Order p. 22).
9. Provide training to “appropriate team members” for Level 1 facilities (Order p. 23 & 33).
10. Be informed, responsible, and attentive to the required duties of a QISP while keeping the QISP registration in good standing with the State Water Board and the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) (Fact Sheet p. 28).

Becoming a QISP

Sign up for the QISP Training Program by going to the California State University, Sacramento Office of Water Programs (OWP) website at www.owp.csus.edu.

After creating an account, click [Stormwater Certificates](#), then [IGP QISP](#). The website guides you through the process of completing the QISP Training Program.

QISP Training Program FAQs

Are there prerequisites or underlying certifications required to be a QISP?

There are no formal prerequisites to be a QISP. There is, however, a practical prerequisite. The material presented in the QISP Training Program was developed for QISP candidates who have basic knowledge of stormwater principles, working knowledge of the IGP, and experience implementing industrial stormwater compliance. This program is not designed for a “Stormwater 101” audience.

How much time is a QISP candidate allowed to complete the QISP Training Program?

The training program must be completed within one year of the initial registration date. If your registration expires before you complete all steps in the program, you would need to re-register and restart the QISP Training Program.

More QISP Training Program FAQs

How do I become a QISP?

To become a QISP, candidates must complete the online training; pass a midterm exam; attend a one-day, in-person class; and pass a final exam.

How long will the online training take?

On average it takes 16 hours to complete the self-study online training material. This consists of videos, site scenarios, readings from the IGP, information from the CASQA Industrial and Commercial BMP Online Handbook, and quizzes.

How many attempts does a QISP candidate have to pass the midterm and final exams?

The QISP candidate is allowed to take each exam twice. If the candidate does not pass the midterm exam in two attempts, the candidate must pay to re-register and retake the online training.

If the candidate does not pass the final exam in two attempts, the candidate must pay to re-register, retake the online training, complete the midterm with a passing grade, and attend another one-day, in-person class before re-attempting the final exam. A separate fee may be charged for each class attended.

How do I register for an in-person IGP Trainer of Record (ToR) class?

After passing the midterm, the QISP candidate needs to attend a one-day in-person class with a IGP ToR. Register for a class by visiting the training calendar in the Stormwater Certificates portal at www.owp.csus.edu. A separate fee is charged for this class by the IGP ToR, who will provide payment instruction. When you complete the class, the IGP ToR records your pass/fail in the system. Candidates who pass the class are eligible to take the final exam.

Note that IGP ToRs are required to verify the identity of QISP candidates and their attendance for the completion of the one-day, in-person class. QISP candidates must be attentive during class.

Do California-registered Professional Engineers and Geologists need to take this training?

California licensed professional civil, industrial, chemical, and mechanical engineers and geologists have licenses that have professional overlap with topics in the Industrial General Permit. The California Department of Consumer Affairs, Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (CBPELSG) provides the licensure and regulation of professional civil, industrial, chemical, and mechanical engineers and professional geologists in California. The State Water Board developed a specialized self-guided State Water Board-sponsored registration and training program specifically for these CPBELSG licensed engineers and geologists in good standing with CBPELSG. To complete the training and self-certification, create an account on the Office of Water Programs website at www.owp.csus.edu. Click [Stormwater Certificates](#) then click [IGP CBPELSG](#).

What is required to renew the QISP training registration?

The State Water Board, CASQA, and IGP Training Team have not yet determined what is required to renew the QISP training registration. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

What if a QISP Candidate has a disability, such as hearing impairment, that requires special accommodations to access online class material in the QISP Training Program?

To request online training accommodations, contact Office of Water Programs by email at wateroffice@owp.csus.edu or by phone at (916) 278-6142. Please plan ahead to give yourself adequate time to coordinate your accommodation needs with the Office of Water Programs and to complete your QISP training.