



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities

LID GUIDEBOOK FACTSHEET

Building green cities

Washington’s Puget Sound region is one of America’s fastest growing areas. To protect the health of our streams, rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound, Washington must focus on building green cities that can more effectively manage stormwater runoff, while increasing density and livability for our growing population.

Developers, property owners, and jurisdictions can be a part of the solution to stormwater runoff by using Low-Impact Development (LID) solutions.

Incentivizing Low-Impact Development

A guidebook for jurisdictions and developers

The Washington State Department of Commerce has designed a Low-Impact Development Guidebook that provides tools and resources for local jurisdictions to work with developers, engineers, and property owners to go “above and beyond” stormwater permit requirements for LID in urban centers and promote LID Best Management Practices (BMPs) in their area.

We heard from developers that when evaluating LID solutions, the most important factors to are affordability, site feasibility, and return on investment.

When considered early in the development process, many LID solutions can be low-cost, easy-to-implement and maintain, and add social and economic value to the property.

The tools and resources in the LID Guidebook for Jurisdictions aim to make implementing LID solutions an easy and rewarding part of the development process

GROWTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The LID Guidebook: what's inside?

Best management practice (BMP) factsheets

The LID Guidebook includes a set of 10 factsheets designed to make selecting, installing, and maintaining LID solutions easier and more affordable for developers.

BIORETENTION + RAIN GARDENS	PERVIOUS CONCRETE	POROUS ASPHALT	PERMEABLE PAVERS / OPEN CELL GRIDS	VEGETATED ROOFS
RAINWATER HARVESTING	AMENDED SOILS	MINIMAL EXCAVATION FOUNDATION	DISPERSION	NEW/RETAINED TREES

Each factsheet includes:

- Explanation of benefits and value to developers.
- Design and maintenance tips to simplify upkeep.
- Design, code, and installation best practices.
- Case studies from around the region.
- Additional technical assistance resources.

Western Washington stormwater code requirements matrix

This resource identifies the specific stormwater requirements in each jurisdiction, linking to relevant stormwater manuals and noting jurisdictions with additional requirements.

Directory of resources on LID vendors, costs, and financing

This section includes a directory of LID vendors and contractors, BMP costs, and tools for financing.

Guide to LID incentives

The LID Guidebook includes tools for jurisdiction staff to understand, evaluate, and develop incentive programs to encourage LID installation. The six incentive types explored in the guidebook include: fee discounts, awards and recognition, grants, land use and permitting, expedited process, and rebate and cost-share programs. The guidebook also includes a Western Washington Incentives Matrix that highlights current incentive programs throughout the region.

Directory of LID trainings, certifications, and technical assistance resources

Developers indicated that they rely on the knowledge and expertise of their civil engineers, geotechnical engineers, landscape designers, and technical consultants regarding local stormwater code requirements and recommendations for stormwater management solutions. To meet this need, the LID Guidebook includes training, certification, and technical assistance resources, including free LID and stormwater management technical manuals, example LID BMP design details, and LID, green building, and industry-specific trainings and certifications.