

Watershed Planning and Policy Toolbox Strategy Worksheet: RB-S5

<p>Strategy: Create a policy and planning “toolbox” for municipalities and developers that can be used to control development impacts, including environmentally sensitive zoning and site design techniques such as low impact development and smart growth methods. Provide training for municipalities (e.g., municipal and consultant planners and engineers and land use boards) and developers (e.g., engineers, planners, architects and landscape architects) and provide technical and planning assistance to municipalities in using the toolbox.</p>	<p>Strategy Priority: H (H/M/L)</p>
<p>Objectives Addressed by Strategy: RBE0-04A. Municipal and county officials receive background training/education to support municipal and county planning and management actions that support the implementation of the watershed management plan. In addition, officials are knowledgeable regarding available tools and ordinances to implement the plan recommendations in their communities. NSLU-01A: By _____, establish techniques to ensure that development protects and improves water and water related resources of the North & South Branch Raritan WMA. NSLU-01C: By _____, establish procedures to maintain and safeguard preserved lands that impact water and water-related resources. LRLM-02F. By 2006, municipalities and other stakeholders will be provided with policy guidelines, methods (BMPs), implementation guidelines and maintenance protocols to achieve the goals and objectives stated in the Lower Raritan WMA watershed management plan. LRLU-03A. By 2004, municipalities shall help protect environmental resources and mitigate environmental impacts by requiring a thorough examination of environmental impacts from applicants for development or redevelopment projects. LRLM-02A. The potential impacts of different land uses and management methods will be understood by 2004. Appropriate BMPs for various land uses shall be implemented to serve 25% of the land area in the WMA by 2010. An additional 5% of area will be served by BMPs each consecutive year. LRSW-04C. By 2006, municipalities and other stakeholders will be provided with policy guidelines, methods (BMPs), implementation guidelines and maintenance protocols to achieve the goals and objectives stated in the Lower Raritan WMA watershed management plan. LRLI-01A. By 2004, understand municipal, county and state capabilities for watershed management in the Lower Raritan WMA to guide watershed strategy development and implementation. LRWR-01C. By 2005, technical, institutional and stakeholder capacity will support coordinated watershed restoration efforts. MEO-03B: Municipal officials educated about tools and strategies available to align current planning and development practices with watershed management goals in their community MNP-02B: Engineers, planners, developers and regulators educated about the regulations, planning documents and best management practices currently available to reduce nonpoint source pollution and appropriate for the Raritan Basin</p>	<p>Strategy Schedule: 2002+ (Begin/End)</p>
<p>Narrative Description of Strategy: Municipalities are responsible for a wide variety of activities that affect watershed management and protection. Some occur through the Municipal Land Use Law, while others are reactions to federal or State mandates, municipal priorities, etc. These functions are rarely isolated to watershed issues, but rather interact with a wide variety of other land use, environmental protection, public health and safety, and growth management issues. Municipalities face these issues in common, but usually work on them in isolation. Therefore, considerable effort is spent “reinventing the wheel” in terms of local education and training, research, program development, etc. Raritan Project stakeholders identified a critical need for a “toolbox” that could provide information to municipal elected and appointed officials, staff and consultants so that “doing the right thing and doing the thing right” are easier, technical and legally justified and defensible, and regionally compatible. Further, the toolbox concept is incomplete without education, training, planning and technical support, and funding. Fortunately, significant initiatives already exist that provide components of the toolbox.</p> <p>This strategy will result in a targeted toolbox and outreach initiative through a variety of existing organizations, and at least one new organization/entity. The strategy addresses the following key concepts: (1) which issues/concepts should be the focus of toolbox components; (2) what will motivate municipalities to</p>	

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“open” the toolbox and use the tools; (3) how are the tools in the toolbox developed and made available to a broad audience; (4) how are municipal decision-makers and leaders educated about the issues so that they can ask the right questions and understand the implications of ideas presented by technical/planning experts; (5) how are the technical/planning experts trained and supported so that they can help municipalities implement effective actions; and (6) how can the technical/planning experts for developers and other non-municipal interests receive similar training so that they are capable of interacting with the municipalities in a constructive manner on specific projects.

The toolbox will initially focus on those issues that address major regulatory or statutory mandates, major problems that have proved difficult to manage, or major public concerns that spur municipal action. This focus will ensure that municipalities are motivated to use the toolbox. The tools will be developed by a variety of organizations that have competence in specific areas (e.g., the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association’s Stream Corridor Ordinance Handbook), and will be provided through the NJ Future “Smart Growth Gateway” on-line access system. Collaborative education and training efforts will be developed, where outreach organizations provide information to municipal officials about the toolbox and tools, and Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education (among others) provides detailed training to municipal and developer expert staff and consultants. The training would include opportunities for technical experts to become “certified” in some fashion based on proof of expertise in applying the specific tools. Finally, the strategy proposes a new Technical Support Center for Watershed Management (or Smart Growth, including watershed management) that would provide ongoing (post-training) technical and planning support to municipal and other experts, with assistance fees subsidized for those municipalities who cannot afford to pay full costs. This Technical Support Center would be modeled on similar programs for industrial pollution prevention programs operated by NJIT in cooperation with NJDEP.

Areawide WQM Plan Consistency Determination Issues: NA

Action Plan (Steps or Tasks)	Responsible Parties for Planning, Design & Implementation	Responsible Parties for Oversight	Resource Needs (L,M,H,VH)	Committed or Recommended Resources	Major Challenges and Opportunities	Evaluation Method & Indicators	Schedule and Milestones for Implementation
1. Identify critical topics for toolbox based on existing problems, clearly foreseen problems, opportunities to reduce costs or conflicts, major public issues, using SBMWA Municipal Assessments, Raritan Basin municipal surveys, Raritan Plan, etc.	C: R: RBEO, WMA Committees	C: R: RBC	L	C: Foundation grants for Municipal Assessment Program R:	◆ Topics must be understandable; tools must be easy to apply for municipalities and regulated interests ◆ N&S Branch & Lower Raritan WMAs have municipal surveys; SBMWA has several municipal assessments	Aggregate list	2003

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2. Identify or develop model ordinance packages (issues, science, management options, ordinance language, existing ordinances) to address critical topics from Action Step 1	C: SBMWA, NJCF & partners R: ANJEC, NJWSA, NJCF and partners,	C: R: RBC, TAC and WMA Committees	L per package M overall	C: Foundation grants for Municipal Assessment Program R: Foundations, existing resources, NJDEP grant funds	SBMWA has stream corridor ordinance package; draft stormwater/NPS and soil erosion/sediment control. NJCF and others developing steep slope ordinance. ANJEC has ordinance library	Complete, peer reviewed packages	2002-Stream Corridors 2003- NPS from Stormwater 2003-SESC 2003-Steep Slopes
3. Identify or develop model approach for municipal enforcement of watershed protection ordinances	C: SBMWA R:	C: R: RBC, TAC and WMA Committees	L	C: Foundations R:	Ongoing project	Complete, peer reviewed packages	2003
4. Develop and regularly update a detailed analysis of statutory, regulatory and judicial law with regard to planning and zoning for capacity-based watershed protection and water resources management	C: R: NJ Department of Law & Public Safety, NJOSG, NJ Bar Association (individually or as collective project)	C: R: State Planning Commission	L-M	C: R: Existing resources, foundation funds, corporate funds (for NJBA work)	◆ Should be part of broader analysis addressing "Smart Growth" and used by Attorney General in defense of Smart Growth work by municipalities ◆ Brandywine Conservancy has Pennsylvania analysis	Complete, peer reviewed review on Web	

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5. Identify or develop model approach for development of municipal Master Plan for watershed protection	C: R: ANJEC, NJ-APA, NJPO	C: R: RBC	L	C: R: Existing resources, foundation funds	ANJEC has Smart Growth Toolbox capable of being used for this approach	Manual or handbook and training program	
6. Identify or develop model approach for development of wastewater management plans, Areawide WQM Plan amendments and watershed-based stormwater mgt plans for watershed protection	C: R: NJDEP, NJWSA, Areawide WQM Plan designated agencies, WMP agencies, County planning boards	C: R: RBC, WMA Committees	M	C: R: Section 604b funds, CBT grant, foundation funds, existing resources	Possible link to NJDEP Highlands efforts	Manual or handbook and training program	2003-2004
7. Identify or develop approaches for using "brownfields" or other redevelopment and retrofit options to reduce watershed impacts.	C: R: NJDEP	C: R: RBC	M	C: R: Existing resources	NJDEP and Rutgers working on Stormwater-NPS BMP Manual modifications	Manual or handbook and training program	
8. Identify or develop tools for build-out analyses with ability to test watershed protection scenarios	C: R: Raritan TAC, RPP, NJDEP, NJWSA	C: R: Raritan TAC, WMA Committees	M	C: R: Foundation funds, CBT or 319 grants	◆ Goal Oriented Zoning" (RPP in Mercer and Somerset Co.); Community Viz (Orton Fdn); Hunterdon Co build-out analysis. ◆ All need water supply, water quality and stream health modeling	Modeling modules that can accept input from all appropriate build-out models and then provide input to same models	

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9. Ensure full access to Raritan Project and other GIS information for planning and design purposes	C: SBMWA, NJWSA R:	C: RBC, Raritan TAC R:	L	C: Existing resources, foundation funds R:	NJWSA maintains Web site for Raritan Project info; SBMWA has map access site; NJDEP has IMap access site; Rutgers has been developing "Map Garden"	Multiple avenues for Web access to coverages, appropriate to various levels of GIS capability	2003
10. Identify or develop Design Practices Manual (for developments and redevelopment), with visual analytical tools to allow community visualization of results	C: R: NJOSG, NJDEP, NJDCA	C: R: SPC, RBC	M	C: R: Existing resources, EPA grants	Community Viz program provides visualization but needs extensive data, doesn't address all aspects of design for watershed protection, not based on capacity analysis		
11. Provide access to Watershed Planning and Policy toolbox components through Web site	C: NJ Future R:	C: R: RBC	M	C: Foundations R:	NJ Future "Smart Growth Gateway" is available for this purpose – all relevant sites can link and interlink		
12. Develop and implement coordinated education of municipal elected and appointed officials, and detailed training of municipal staff and consultants, in toolbox materials	C: R: ANJEC, NJPO, RBEO, watershed associations, WMA Committees, League of Municipalities, Rutgers OCPE and other technical training programs	C: R: RBC, Raritan TAC	L per program M overall	C: R: Existing resources, foundation funds, CBT and 319 grants, program fees	♦ Ensure that municipal officials understand why action is needed, what to do, what their experts should know, how to fund it. ♦ Focus on <u>key</u> issues to avoid confusion or	Sequence of local outreach & education programs, promoting and followed by technical training programs, repeated as needed	

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					confusion or overload. ♦ANJEC NEMO stormwater and septic system education; Rutgers OCPE technical training programs; watershed associations 1:1 outreach to municipalities		
13. Identify or develop tools to integrate watershed protection with “Smart Growth” and other emerging planning techniques, including planning, design and evaluation systems	C: R: NJOSG, RPP, NJ Future, ANJEC	C: R: SPC, RBC	M	C: Foundations for RPA R: Existing resources, foundation funds, Smart Growth grants, corporate support	♦NJ Future “Smart Growth Scorecards” ♦NJOSG pilot “Smart Growth Index” ♦RPP “Three System Approach” to mesh growth management, transportation and watershed protection ♦RPA Mayors Institute on Community Design, and Highlands initiative ♦NJOSG case studies of local plans ♦Somerset County Smart	Readily available and relatively easy to use tools that are integrated with funding opportunities, linked to training and support programs Use of tools by municipalities involved in Plan Endorsement process	

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					Growth Policy Academy; work with Banisch Associates on "Program Management Evaluation Tool" for planning of Centers and Environs		
14. Incorporate watershed mgt concepts into the SDRP "Endorsed Plan" process to provide incentives in both directions	C: R: NJOSG	C: R: SPC	L	C: R: Existing resources	Concepts must be framed in a way that readily can be used by municipalities and evaluated by NJOSG/SPC	Endorsed Plan regs modified to incorporate watershed protection	
15. Provide financial assistance to municipalities for improved planning and watershed protection	C: Somerset County, NJ Office of Smart Growth R: NJDEP, RBC	C: R: WMA Committees	L-M per municipality M-VH overall	C: Somerset County funds, NJOSG funds R: Foundations, 604b grants, CBT grants	♦ Somerset County implementing "County-Municipal Partnership" with planning funds; ♦ NJOSG has Smart Growth Grants, manual on financial resources for Smart Growth implementation	Increase in available funds	2003+

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16. Provide a support center for technical staff and consultants, to provide technical and planning assistance in support of toolbox for watershed mgt	C: R: NJDEP, Rutgers, NJIT	C: R: RBC, NJDEP	M-H	C: R: NJDEP contractual funds, EPA grants, foundations, program fees	Assess costs based on ability to pay (i.e., subsidize costs for small or poor municipalities, full costs to general consultants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Center established, funded and staffed ◆ Support provided ◆ Evaluation of support system 	
17. Develop and institute a system for “certifying” technical experts in the use of toolbox tools to ensure and reward competence	C: R: Rutgers OCPE, NJDEP, NJOSG	C: R: NJDEP, RBC	L-M	C: R: Program fees and certification fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use for pre-qualification of consultants by NJOSG, others ◆ Use to create municipal and developer demand for expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ System established ◆ Training in place ◆ Certifications granted ◆ Pre-qualified list developed ◆ Use of list 	