

LID is coming! What does it mean to my jurisdiction?



Low Impact Development (LID) is now the preferred method for managing stormwater in urban areas of Western Washington and is expanding to Eastern Washington urban areas in the near future. New NPDES stormwater requirements issued by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) means that municipalities will need to integrate LID into stormwater management plans upon expiration of current stormwater permits. This new requirement will affect local government activities, policies, and processes in various ways, and each jurisdiction will be responsible for making the necessary preparations.

Here are some tips for preparing your jurisdiction for the new LID requirements:

1. Identify budget needs

Making the transition to LID may introduce transitional costs for local governments, including costs for reporting, internal procedure and design criteria changes, new tools and equipment, and additional staffing. Private developers may also incur costs for formally integrating LID as part of the standard development process.

Jurisdictions will need to consider the costs that may be incurred from the new LID requirements and identify opportunities for financing these costs in upcoming budget deliberations. See Fact Sheet #3 "Cost and Planning Considerations" for more detailed information.

2. Find out your jurisdiction's timeline

Timeline

Western Washington municipalities must integrate new permit requirements by:

- **June 30, 2015:** Phase I cities and counties (Western WA only)
- **Dec 31, 2016:** Most Phase II Western WA municipalities
- **June 30, 2017:** Cities of Kelso, Longview, and Centralia and Cowlitz County
- **June 30, 2018:** City of Aberdeen

Eastern Washington municipalities must implement the new permit requirements by December 31, 2017.

See Fact Sheet #2 "Regulation - What do I Need to Know?" for more detailed information about timelines, or go online to www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/index.html

3. Effective planning starts now

- Identify project team and lead staff for ordinance work
- Determine staffing needs and impacts for implementing requirements
- Determine budget needs and impacts to support transition and ongoing implementation
- Facilitate interdepartmental coordination when incorporating these new LID requirements to ensure consideration of the most effective and efficient organizational approach

See Fact Sheet #3 "Cost and Planning Considerations" for more detailed information.

4. Incorporate LID sooner rather than later

Starting the planning process now will provide sufficient time and flexibility to engage your community and identify best strategies. The benefits of starting now are:

- Start slowly to allow time to see what works for your jurisdiction
- Educating development community stakeholders early can ease the transition to LID
- Planning ahead for difficulties can ensure that you meet your permit deadlines on time
- Facilitating interdepartmental coordination ensures efficiencies across departments
- Benefit from the experience of other jurisdictions
- Use resources available through Ecology to help train staff

5. Review your jurisdiction's regulations and begin integrating LID efforts

Removing barriers to the implementation of LID through planning, code and ordinance updates is an important step in preparing for these permit revisions. Existing local codes, comprehensive plans, ordinances, and regulations may be affected, such as:

- Subdivision ordinances
- Zoning ordinances
- Clearing and grading ordinances
- Landscaping ordinances
- Utility requirements
- Road and parking standards

Early review of your jurisdiction's regulations and assessment of necessary changes can facilitate LID integration across codes and can reveal opportunities for additional efficiencies.

6. Encourage your jurisdiction to get training

To prepare your jurisdiction, it is important to identify which staff will be affected by the new requirements and schedule them for trainings. Ecology is providing tools to make the transition easier.

The new LID requirements will affect a variety of local government staff, including:

- Planning departments
- Public Works staff
- Operations and maintenance crews
- Capital project design teams

7. Engage the community

LID approaches will change how development occurs. It is critical for local governments to employ public outreach strategies that engage the community early and often around how LID works, the important role it plays in managing stormwater, and its multiple benefits. Efforts should be tailored specifically to the local community as requirements vary across the state.

