



GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Partnership (G3) aims to stimulate the green jobs market and enable families to work where they live and play. Small to mid-sized communities can boost their local economies and protect water resources through the use of watershed planning, design and construction of stormwater best management practices.

SUPPORTING LID COMPETITIONS - WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

WEF promotes innovation in stormwater management through LID Competitions.



The Water Environment Federation (WEF), a non-profit organization with the mission to preserve, protect, and enhance the global water environment in critical water bodies such as the Chesapeake Bay, hosted a two-day LID design competition workshop to provide insight on initiating future competitions, engaging with communities, and sharing information. LID and Green Infrastructure design competitions give engineers, developers, landscape architects, and others a chance to gain experience with LID/green infrastructure (GI) in a low-risk environment. Competitions can also break down perceived barriers to LID/GI, such as performance and cost, and give the development and permitting community a chance to evaluate the benefits of using LID/GI. While LID competitions have proven to be effective, it is important to note that this is a relatively new promotes innovation in stormwater management through LID Competitions.

and evolving technique. The impact of the event will continue as those communities that choose to move forward to invest in LID Competitions have the information needed to successfully plan and implement these events, spreading the use of LID competitions in the future. The event was followed with a white paper that may be used to educate additional communities and organizations.



6 competitions



13 communities engaged



1 publication



3,000 web hits



PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Webinars**– This outreach tool, when designed properly for the target audience, can provide important information to audiences who cannot always travel to attend workshops and seminars.
- **Workshops**– For the proper audience, workshops bring people together and encourage dialogue and networking.
- **Low Impact Development Competitions**– LID Competitions can serve a number of functions and are a tool more frequently used by EPA partners. The idea of such a competition is to attract the private sector, such as engineering firms, to provide information and analysis in exchange for potential exposure and possibility of a contract at the end of the competition.
- **Financing strategies discussion**– While in the long-term, green infrastructure projects save money, initially their implementation requires an infusion of resources. Different communities are addressing financing tools and strategies differently. An analysis of all available tools is incredibly important..



G3 Grant Award:	\$10,000
Match:	\$4,132
Status – Grant 1:	completed



WEF walks the talk: green roof on its headquarters in Alexandria VA



Project Partners: American Rivers; Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland; Chesapeake Bay Trust, MD Department of the Environment, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL GREEN ACTIVITIES

Low Impact Development Competitions can demonstrate that LID is cost-effective and confers a host of other benefits. The initial efforts in Houston have led to replication in Philadelphia, Virginia, and Baltimore.

An LID competition has the power to not only change mindsets but turn participants into advocates. In Houston, engineering firms with a record of being generally unsupportive of LID now promote LID designs first, and hundreds of LID-based projects are under way in the Houston area. The Water Environment Federation found that about 60% of participants had opportunities to work on LID during the year following the competition, and about 70% of participant's clients were receptive to LID.

After the Houston competition, a series of collaborative workshops were held involving the design community, developers, and city and county staff that examined impediments to LID in Houston-area design and development codes. The end result was development of the Harris County Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure Design Criteria for Stormwater Management. The document outlines simple, performance-based LID design criteria and a collaborative and expedited permitting process for LID-based projects...

For additional information: visit www.epa.gov and www.cbtrust.org.