



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.

COSTS AND FINANCING OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - CITY OF YORK, PA

American Rivers targets Susquehanna River Basin communities .



The Susquehanna River is the largest tributary contributing polluted runoff to the Chesapeake Bay. American Rivers received funding for two projects: First, to develop a series of webinars and workshops outlining the basics of green street and green infrastructure costs, benefits and financing specific to Pennsylvania urban communities in the Susquehanna Basin. The goal was to improve the efficiency of local stormwater management programs in the region and demonstrate how a green infrastructure approach can improve clean water and serve other priorities.

outlying York County municipalities have been regularly attending workshops on stormwater topics and coordinating planning and projects

The project provided a valuable service by demonstrating how green infrastructure solutions are feasible and affordable and by providing strategies, tools and case studies.

The second project addressed urban agriculture. Urban agriculture and green infrastructure both create and conserve green space in urban areas. Integrating these types of projects may leverage their complimentary purposes and result in additional community benefits. American Rivers is examining the potential opportunities and limitations of combining these approaches within municipal programs in Chesapeake Bay communities, specifically Baltimore, Maryland, Lancaster and York, Pennsylvania

American Rivers developed three webinars to spark dialogue. In addition, a workshop was organized in the City to increase capacity for green infrastructure of York for individuals responsible to administer stormwater management and green infrastructure programs.

Each of the forums was well attended. Staff, consultants and leaders from the City of York and



4 webinars/workshops



192 attendees



3 publications



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.
- **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..
- **Urban agriculture**– With discussions of food deserts, food justice, and local food markets, urban agriculture has been booming. The value of urban agriculture as a way to reduce imperviousness of urban areas and to engage communities and residents in green practices has recently been tackled as a topic. While urban agriculture can be a valuable land use option, its nutrient footprint must be analyzed.



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL GREEN ACTIVITIES

American Rivers has been a leader in green infrastructure for more than a decade. By applying their expertise to address a significant barrier to the implementation of sustainable stormwater management—understanding green infrastructure’s value and cost effectiveness—American Rivers has developed a large body of work on the economics of green infrastructure. In Pennsylvania, this barrier is particularly challenging because municipalities have responsibility for land use control yet lack the legal framework to establish stormwater utilities as a management and funding mechanism. Thus, green infrastructure practices that provide a cost effective stormwater management solution are all that more useful to Pennsylvania municipalities

These two projects have sparked a growing understanding of green infrastructure and interest in funding opportunities and financing initiatives for green infrastructure in the region of York. Staff, consultants, and leaders from the City of York and outlying York County municipalities have been regularly attending workshops on stormwater topics and coordinating planning and projects. The project succeeded in raising the level of awareness of Pennsylvania’s Bay municipalities and increased the engagement and readiness of officials in York.

The City of York is expected to pursue funding through existing sources for specific projects within the city and to commit to establish a long-term plan to drive investments, incentives and initiative for comprehensive use of green infrastructure by the municipality, its businesses, and citizens..

G3 Grant Award 1:	\$20,000
G3 Grant Award 2:	\$24,865
Match Contribution:	\$4,222
Status – Grant 1:	completed
Status – Grant 2:	in progress

Webinar 1: “Benefits of Green Infrastructure.”

The webinar focused on the benefits of green infrastructure including: clean water for drinking and aquatic life, stream bank erosion and flood reduction, energy savings, and human health improvement through avoidance of pollutants and enjoyment of environmental ambiance.

Webinar 2: “Green Infrastructure Funding Programs”

This discussion introduced funding programs at progressively larger scales, first looking at funding programs to serve small demonstration projects or outreach, then to develop and implement designs across a specific site and finally to fund community-wide or intensive practice projects from comprehensive plans.

Webinar 3: , “Financing Strategies for Green Infrastructure Programs.”

This webinar provided an introduction to practical and proven long-term methods of financing stormwater programs and capitalizing on green infrastructure’s benefits. AN overview was presented on fee systems administered through authorities or utilities but focused on creative practices that Pennsylvania municipalities could adopt where the legal capacity for such authorities remains uncertain.

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