



District of Columbia

2009-11 Milestones to Reduce Nitrogen & Phosphorus - Assessment June 2012

FINAL PROGRESS



Introduction

During the 2009 Chesapeake Executive Council meeting, the mayor of the District of Columbia set short-term goals to reduce pollution to the Bay and dramatically accelerate the pace of restoration. A final assessment of progress follows.

Final Progress

Urban/Suburban	2009-11 Commitment ¹	Total Implementation in 2011 ¹	% Achieved ¹
Downspout Connections (connections) ²	300	975	325%
Green Roofs (square feet) ^{2, 3}	2,500,000	1,300,000	52%
Litter Trap Installation Demo Projects (lbs. trash diverted) ²	6,800	6,800	100%
Rain Barrels (barrels) ²	250	975	390%
Rain Gardens (gardens) ²	100	122	122%
Retrofit Catch Basins for Trash Control (catch basins) ²	100	200	200%
Sanitary Sewer Replacement (miles) ²	1.5	0.8	53%
Storm Drain Marker Installation (markers/yr) ²	1,000	1,000	100%
Stream Restoration: 2.7 miles of Watts & Pope Branches (linear feet) ⁴	14,256	8,976	63%
Tree Canopy Expansion: 5 percent increase in 25 years (trees) ^{2,5}	21,500	13,770	64%
Tree Planting, 4,150 trees per year (30 acres)	30	51	170%
Wastewater	2009-2011 Commitment	Achievement (1/1/09-12/31/11)	% Achieved (1/1/09-12/31/11)
Wastewater Nitrogen (pounds reduced)	159,000	1,270,900	799%

¹ Most of DC's numeric commitments for 2011 were for total implementation in 2011; the 2011 implementation levels are compared to commitments to calculate % achievement for all practices except stream restoration.

² Practices not included in CBP Watershed Model; 2011 implementation data from DC compared to commitment to calculate % achievement.

³ Unfortunately, commitment value was miscalculated; this goal will be met in 2017.

⁴ Cumulative amount in 2008 subtracted from the cumulative amount in 2011 and compared to commitment to calculate % achievement.

⁵ Trees planted in conjunction with DDOE. This number does not include Federal Partners.

Pollution Control Practices Substituted for Original 2009-2011 Milestone Commitments

	Progress (1/1/09-12/31/11)
Wastewater Phosphorus (pounds reduced)	32,162

For more, contact Diane Davis, (202) 741-0847, Diane.davis2@dc.gov

Programmatic Accomplishments, 2009-2011

	Status
ENR – Award Contract for design by June 1, 2009	Completed
ENR – Award contract for construction by December 31, 2011	Completed
CSO reductions – completion of nine minimum control projects in May 2009	Completed
Create new tree box standards to allow for better tree growth	Completed
Develop lot-level residential stormwater detention/retention through RiverSmart Homes incentive program	Completed
Train federal facilities on new stormwater requirements	Completed
Implement a program to control discharges from District and federally owned facilities	Completed
Strengthen auto repair shop education campaign in Hickey Run (pilot)	Completed
Inspect all auto repair shops, laundromats and dry cleaners at least once every five years	Completed
Develop and implement a pet waste strategy	Completed
Mandate installation and use of pumpout stations at all District marinas	Completed
Complete a DPW street sweeping study and implement long-term enhanced street sweeping and fine particle removal	Completed
Implement and promote new stormwater regulations requiring LID construction as first option	Ongoing (in 2012-13 goals)
Develop an impervious area-based stormwater fee	Completed
Review and update zoning regulations to encourage green building	Ongoing
Determine the type of trash control devices that would be the most effective in retaining large debris and sediment in hot-spot areas identified by a trash survey	Completed
Incorporate LID into 24 percent of all District DOT impervious retrofit projects	Completed

Progress Highlights

- More than 2,400 homes have been audited through the RiverSmart Homes Program, an innovative program designed to reduce stormwater runoff from residential properties and improve water quality within the District. It focuses on increasing the use of lot-level stormwater retention/detention practices, such as shade trees and porous paving, and includes fiscal incentives to homeowners to install these types of landscaping features. Due to the District Department of the Environment’s (DDOE) successful outreach and education campaign, more than 300 DC homeowners are interested in the RiverSmart Homes Program and are on a waiting list to be audited.
- In 2011, according to Green Roofs for Healthy Cities’ “Top 10 US Metropolitan Regions Rankings”, the District vaulted into first place (surpassing Chicago) for its installation of 800,000 square feet of green roofs, the largest amount in the country. Currently 1.3 million square feet of green roof have been approved for construction on 128 buildings through spring 2012.

Shortfalls

- The District fell short on the sanitary sewer replacement and stream restoration milestones. Due to outside circumstances, the stream restoration project on Pope Branch did not begin on schedule. Although this project is expected to go forward and the money for it is still in place, its delay resulted in these milestones not being met since sanitary sewer replacement was tied into the stream restoration goals.
- In 2011, individuals and groups planted more than 13,608 trees across DC resulting in an A+ grade from Casey Trees for plantings. As a result, for the second straight year, collective tree plantings in DC exceeded the minimum number of trees (8,600) needed annually to reach the District’s tree canopy goal of 40% by 2035 (Casey Trees Report, 2012). Therefore, DDOE can only be said to be behind on its 25 year tree canopy expansion goal if its efforts are the only ones considered. However, with the full-time support of outside groups such as DDOT and Casey Trees (and many more) DC is not in shortfall.
- While the District has made great strides on green roof installations, it misreported the two year milestone for square feet of green roof coverage. The goal is to have 2.5 million square feet of green roof installed by 2017. Currently 1.3 million square feet of green roof have been approved for construction on 128 buildings through spring 2012.