

New EPA Educational Stormwater Video

Reduce Runoff:

Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In



Featuring:



Ray Mims, Conservation
Horticulturalist
U.S. Botanic Gardens



John Snitzer
Chesapeake Conservation
Landscaping Council



Robert D. Cameron
Center for Green Roof
Research, Penn State
University

This new 9-minute video, “Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In,” highlights green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, and rain barrels that help manage stormwater runoff in a more sustainable manner. The film, produced in partnership with the U.S. Botanic Garden, showcases green techniques that are being used in urban areas to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff on the quality of downstream receiving waters.

The goal is to mimic the natural way water moves through an area before development by using design techniques that infiltrate, evaporate, and reuse runoff close to its source. The green techniques, including rain gardens, green roofs, rain barrels and cisterns, are very effective at reducing the volume of stormwater runoff and capturing harmful pollutants. These green practices increasingly are being used by communities across the country to help protect and restore water quality. Using vegetated areas that capture runoff also improves air quality, mitigates the effects of urban heat islands, and reduces a community’s overall carbon footprint.

The video includes green techniques on display in 2008 at the U.S. Botanic Garden’s “One Planet – Ours!” Exhibit. It also highlights green techniques at U.S. EPA’s Headquarters in Washington, D.C. including recently completed cisterns. Six 1,000-gallon cisterns installed in the basement at EPA’s West Building now collect roof runoff from the building. This cistern water irrigates planting beds and grass in front of EPA’s West Building along Constitution Avenue, thereby conserving water and reducing runoff to the Chesapeake Bay.

The video is available online at: www.epa.gov/nps/lid. Also, see www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/stormwater_hq/ for more information on Stormwater Management at EPA Headquarters.

See the Video On-Line at: www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/

For more information, contact: Anne Weinberg at weinberg.anne@epa.gov or Patty Scott at scott.patricia@epa.gov
U.S. EPA, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (4503T)
1200 Penn. Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20460