

Report Card for North Carolina's Infrastructure – 2009 Update
STORM WATER

Overview

All too often, local cities and counties pay little attention to storm water infrastructure. Only when major flooding occurs in an area with inadequate drainage systems do storm water issues become newsworthy. In response to federally mandated regulations that have been passed down to the state for implementation, communities are now being required to address storm water management and the water quality of their streams, as well as take steps to reduce polluted storm water runoff. However, dedicated funding for storm water infrastructure is not typically available, nor have communities consistently budgeted to clean their drainage systems. **As a result, the state's storm water infrastructure grade remains a C-.**

Recommendations and Progress

- Develop permanent funding source for storm water improvements. In 2007, efforts were made to establish a statewide water infrastructure bond, but the legislation did not pass.
- Develop an infrastructure inventory database. As part of the Water 2030 Plan, the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center began developing a statewide database which includes storm water infrastructure. Progress on the database has not been reported.
- Continue National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II implementation of current and future communities targeted to protect receiving streams – 135 communities participated in the initial five-year permit cycle. Approximately 20 new communities will be added in the near future. Additional requirements for compliance are being considered by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR).
- Develop standards for inspection and maintenance of best management practices (BMPs). NCDENR updated the state's BMP Manual, which includes guidelines for pollutant removal devices.

Grade Breakdown

Floodplain development regulations - 60 percent have regulations	C-	(25%)
System Inventory Mapping – 40 percent maintain a storm water map	D+	(25%)
NPDES Phase II Communities – 135 and growing	B	(25%)
Communities with dedicated funding - Less than 40 percent	D-	(25%)

Overall: C-