

Introduction

Stormwater Coalition Scorecard - Inventory of Municipal Codes for Green Infrastructure Practices (September 2011)

The Stormwater Coalition Scorecard allows an in-depth review of the standards, local laws, ordinances, and codes (i.e., the development rules) that shape how development occurs in your municipality. You are guided through a systematic comparison of your local development rules against recognized green infrastructure practices. Institutional frameworks, regulatory structures and incentive programs are included in this review. A combination of documents were used including the Center for Watershed Protection Code and Ordinance Worksheet; the Code and Ordinance Worksheet for Development Rules in New York State (a document developed by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program, NYS Water Resources Institute in Cooperation with the Center For Watershed Protection); and the U.S. EPA Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Municipal Handbook-Water Quality Scorecard. The scorecard consists of a series of questions organized into four categories. Points are assigned based on how well the current development rules agree with suggested development principles that support green infrastructure. Green infrastructure practices are included within the NYSDEC MS4 Permit and the NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual (August, 2010).

PREPARING TO COMPLETE THE COALITION SCORECARD

Two tasks need to be performed before you begin the scorecard. First, you must identify all the development rules that apply in your municipality. Second, you must identify the local, state, and federal authorities that actually administer or enforce the development rules within your municipality. Both tasks require a large investment of time. The development process is usually shaped by a complex labyrinth of regulations, criteria, and authorities. A team approach may be helpful. You may wish to enlist the help of a local plan reviewer, land planner, land use attorney, or civil engineer. Their real-world experience with the development process is often very useful in completing the worksheet.

Identify the Development Rules

Gather the key documents that contain the development rules in your municipality. A list of potential documents to look for is provided in Table 1. Keep in mind that the information you may want on a particular development rule is not always found in code or regulation, and may be hidden in supporting design manuals, review checklists, guidance documents or construction specifications. In most cases, this will require an extensive search. Few communities include all of their rules in a single document. Be prepared to contact state, federal, or local agencies to obtain copies of the needed documents.

Table 1: Key Local Documents that will be needed to complete the Coalition Scorecard

- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Ordinance or Local Law
- Zoning Overlay District Regulations (such as a Conservation Overlay District enacted after the Zoning Law)
- Subdivision Regulations
- Site Plan Review Regulations
- Highway Specifications, Street Standards or Road Design Manual
- Parking Requirements
- Building and Fire Regulations/Standards
- Flood Damage Prevention Regulations
- Wetland and/or Watercourse Ordinance or Local Law
- Grading Ordinance or Local Law
- Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance or Local Law
- Stormwater Management Local Law or Drainage Criteria
- Tree Protection or Landscaping Ordinance or Local Law
- Steep Slopes Ordinance
- Emergency Response Master Plans

Identify Development Authorities

Once the development rules are located, it is relatively easy to determine which local agencies or authorities are actually responsible for administering and enforcing the rules. Completing this step will provide you with a better understanding of the intricacies of the development review process. Table 2 provides a simple framework for identifying the agencies that influence development in your municipality. As you will see, space is provided not only for local agencies, but for state and federal agencies as well. In some cases, state and federal agencies may also exercise some authority over the local development process (e.g., wetlands, some road design, and stormwater).

USING THE SCORECARD: HOW DO YOUR RULES STACK UP TO THE SUGGESTED DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES THAT SUPPORT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICES?

Completing the Scorecard

Once you have located the documents that outline your development rules and identified the authorities responsible for development in your municipality, you are ready for the next step. You can now use the Scorecard. The questions require either a yes or no response or specific numeric criteria. You are awarded points if the development rule supports green infrastructure practices.

Calculating Your Score

The Scorecard is subdivided into **FOUR** categories:

1. Reduction of Impervious Cover (Questions No. 1-32)
2. Preservation of Natural Features and Conservation Design (Questions No. 33-74)
3. Design Elements for Stormwater Management (Questions No. 75-86)
4. Promotion of efficient, compact development patterns and infill (Questions No. 87-94)

For each category, you are asked to subtotal your score. This "Time to Assess" allows you to consider which development rules are potential candidates for change.

The total number of points possible is 100. The overall score provides a general indication of how well a municipality incorporates the concepts that support green infrastructure as outlined in the combination of documents used including the Center for Watershed Protection Code and Ordinance Worksheet; the Code and Ordinance Worksheet for Development Rules in New York State; and the U.S. EPA Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Municipal Handbook-Water Quality Scorecard. As a general rule, if the overall score is lower than 80, then it may be advisable to review the local development rules for updating purposes. Once you have completed the Scorecard, go back and review your responses. Determine if there are specific areas that need improvement (e.g., development rules that govern parking standards). This review is key to understanding where there are gaps in your current laws and developing a strategy for addressing which laws and procedures to change. The intent of this assessment and the stormwater regulations in general is to protect water quality within your municipality.

References:

1. "Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Municipal Handbook-Water Quality Scorecard", U.S. EPA, website:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/munichandbook.cfm>
2. "Code and Ordinance Worksheet", Center for Watershed Protection, website:
http://www.cwp.org/documents/cat_view/76-stormwater-management-publications/90-managing-stormwater-in-your-community-a-guide-for-building-an-effective-post-construction-program.html
3. "Code and Ordinance Worksheet for Development Rules in New York State", NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program, NYS Water Resources Institute in Cooperation with the Center for Watershed Protection. Website link is no longer available.

Table 2: Local, State, and Federal Authorities Responsible for Development in Your Municipality

Development Responsibility	State/Federal	County	City, Village or Town
Sets road standards	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Review/approves subdivision plans	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Establishes zoning ordinances	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Establishes subdivision ordinances	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Reviews/establishes stormwater management or drainage criteria	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Provides fire protection and fire protection code enforcement	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Oversees stream buffer ordinance	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Oversees wetland protection	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Establishes grading requirements or oversees erosion and sediment control program	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Reviews/approves septic systems	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Review/approves utility plans (e.g., water and sewer)	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Reviews/approves forest conservation/ tree protection plans	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		
Oversees rare species and habitat protection	Agency:		
	Contact Name:		
	Phone No.:		

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
Category I: Reduction of Impervious Cover					
Street width and length:					
1. What is the minimum pavement width allowed for streets in low density residential developments that have less than 500 daily trips (ADT)? <i>If your answer is between 18-22 feet, give yourself 1 point</i>					
2. At higher densities are parking lanes allowed to also serve as traffic lanes (i.e., queuing streets)? <i>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</i>					
3. Do street standards promote the most efficient street layouts that reduce overall street length? <i>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</i>					
Right-of-Way Width:					
4. What is the minimum right of way (ROW) width for a residential street? <i>If your answer is less than 55 feet, give yourself 1 point</i>					
5. Does the code allow utilities to be placed under the paved section of the ROW? <i>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</i>					
Cul-de-Sacs:					
6. What is the minimum radius allowed for cul-de-sacs? <i>If your answer is less than 35 feet, give yourself 1 point</i> <i>If your answer is 36 feet to 45 feet, give yourself .5 point</i>					
7. Can a landscaped island be created within the cul-de-sac? <i>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</i>					
8. Are alternative turnarounds such as "hammerheads" allowed on short streets in low density residential developments? <i>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</i>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<i>Sidewalks and Curbs</i>					
<p>9. What is the minimum sidewalk width allowed in the municipality? _____ feet</p> <p>If your answer is 4 feet or less, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>10. Are sidewalks always required on both sides of residential streets?</p> <p>If your answer is NO, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>11. Are sidewalks allowed to be sloped to drain to the front yard instead of the street?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>12. Can alternate pedestrian networks be substituted for sidewalks (e.g., trails through common areas)?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<i>Driveways</i>					
<p>13. What is the minimum driveway width specified in the municipality? _____ feet</p> <p>If your answer is 9 feet or less (one lane) or 18 feet (two lanes), give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>14. Can pervious materials be used for single family home driveways (e.g., grass, gravel, porous pavers, etc)?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>15. Can a "two track" design be used at single family driveways? (grass in between)</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>16. Are shared driveways permitted in residential developments?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>17. Are driveways allowed to be sloped to drain to yard areas instead of the street?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
Parking Ratios					
<p>18. What is the minimum parking ratio for a professional office building (per 1000 ft2 of gross floor area)?</p> <p>_____ spaces</p> <p>If your answer is less than 3.0 spaces, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>19. What is the minimum required parking ratio for shopping centers (per 1,000 ft2 gross floor area)?</p> <p>_____ spaces</p> <p>If your answer is 4.5 spaces or less, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>20. What is the minimum required parking ratio for single family homes (per home)?</p> <p>_____ spaces</p> <p>If your answer is less than or equal to 2.0 spaces, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>21. Are your parking requirements set as maximum or median (rather than minimum) requirements?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
Shared Parking					
<p>22. Is the use of shared parking arrangements promoted?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>23. Are model shared parking agreements provided?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>24. Are parking ratios reduced if shared parking arrangements are in place?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>25. If mass transit is provided nearby, is the parking ratio reduced?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
Parking Lot Design Standards					
<p>26. What is the minimum stall width for a standard parking space? _____ feet If your answer is 9 feet or less, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>27. What is the minimum stall length for a standard parking space? _____ feet If your answer is 18 feet or less, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>28. Are at least 30% of the spaces at larger commercial parking lots required to have smaller dimensions for compact cars? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>29. Can pervious materials be used for spillover parking areas? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>30. Is a minimum percentage of a parking lot required to be landscaped? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>31. Is the use of bioretention areas and other stormwater practices within landscaped areas or setbacks allowed? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>32. Are there any incentives to developers to provide parking within garages rather than surface parking lots? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
Subtotal					
<p>Time to Assess: Category I Questions 1 through 32 focused on the laws, ordinances and standards that determine the size, shape, and construction of roads, driveways, parking lots and building lots. There were a total of 32 points available. What was your total score?</p> <p>Subtotal Page 1 ___ + Subtotal Page 2 ___ + Subtotal Page 3 ___ + Subtotal Page 4 ___ = _____</p> <p>Within Category I which question areas earned the most points? Which sections of the codes and ordinances are potential impediments to better development (did not earn points)?</p>				<p><u>Put notes here for Time to Assess:</u></p>	

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
Category II: Preservation of Natural Features and Conservation Design					
Community Planning for Natural Areas					
<p>33. Has the local government/other public institution identified and mapped critical natural resource areas (e.g. steep slopes, wildlife habitat, drinking water source areas including aquifer recharge areas/well head protection zone)</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>34. In addition to or instead of mapping; does the municipality/other public institution have a natural resource inventory (NRI) or open space inventory (OSI) that is used in plan review?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself .5 point for each of the following included in the NRI for a possible total of 6 points (NRI may be paper-based or digital (GIS)).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Surface water-streams, rivers, ponds, lakes</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Floodplains and Flood Hazard Areas</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> NYS Regulated Wetlands</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> National Wetland Inventory</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater/aquifers</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Surficial and bedrock geology</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Topography</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> USDA Soil Survey</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Land cover</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Maps of significant habitat or natural areas</p>					
<p>NY Natural Heritage Program information:</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Rare plants</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Rare animals</p>					
<p>35. Does the local or institutional comprehensive plan contain a natural resource protection element with goals calling for preservation of identified critical natural resource areas? (steep slopes, wildlife habitat, drinking water source areas including aquifer recharge areas)</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<i>Locating Sites in Less Sensitive Areas</i>					
<p>36. Does the municipality have a floodplain management ordinance or local law that prevents new building and filling in the 100-year floodplain (i.e. more stringent than a Flood Damage Prevention Law, commonly adopted to meet minimum requirements for participation in the FEMA flood insurance program)?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>37. Does the municipality have a steep slope, grading, or erosion and sediment control law that requires avoidance of development on steep slope areas and minimizes grading and flattening of hills and ridges?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p> <p>Are steep slopes defined with angle of repose ____or percentage of slope____?</p>					
<p>38. Does the municipality require avoidance and protection of highly erodible soils through a steep slope, grading, or erosion and sediment control law?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>39. Does the municipality provide incentives for development on previously altered sites or in designated priority growth areas?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself .5 point.</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<i>Preservation of Undisturbed Areas</i>					
<p>40. Does the municipality require that natural conservation areas are delineated and defined before site layout and design are conducted?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>41. Does the municipality require that conservation areas and native vegetation be protected in an undisturbed state during the design, construction and occupancy stages?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<i>Stream and Wetland Buffers</i>					
<p>42. Does the municipality have a stream buffer ordinance or local law?</p> <p>If yes, and it is for all streams give yourself 1 point.</p> <p>If yes, but it is only for some streams give yourself .5 points.</p>					
<p>43. If so, what is the minimum buffer width? _____ feet</p> <p>If your answer is 100 feet or more, give yourself 2 points.</p> <p>If your answer is between 50-100 feet, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>44. Is expansion of the buffer to include freshwater wetlands, steep slopes or the 100-year floodplain required?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>45. Does the ordinance also regulate intermittent streams?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>46. Does the municipality have a local wetland buffer ordinance or local law?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>47. In the wetland ordinance, what is the minimum regulated wetland size?</p> <p>If you answer is all wetlands regardless of size give yourself 1 point.</p> <p>If your answer is between 0-5 acres, give yourself .5 point</p>					
<p>48. What is the minimum buffer width for wetlands?</p> <p>_____ feet</p> <p>If your answer is 100 feet or more, give yourself 2 points.</p> <p>If your answer is between 50-100 feet, give yourself 1 point.</p>					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<i>Stream and Wetland Buffer Uses and Enforcement</i>					
<p>49. Do the stream and wetland ordinances specify low impact uses in the buffer that are compatible with conservation such as passive recreation?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself .5 point for wetland buffers and .5 point for streams buffers for a possible total of 1 point.</p>					
<p>50. Do the ordinances/local laws specify enforcement and education mechanisms?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself .5 point for wetland buffers and .5 point for streams buffers for a possible total of 1 point.</p>					
<p>51. Do stream and wetland buffer ordinances/local laws specify that at least part of the buffer be maintained with native vegetation?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself .5 point for wetland buffers and .5 point for stream buffers for a possible total of 1 point.</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
Open Space and Flexible Design					
<p>52. Does the municipality/other public institution have open space design, conservation subdivision or cluster development provisions in local zoning or subdivision laws or construction policies?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p> <p>If your answer is NO, skip to question under <i>open space management</i>.</p>					
<p>53. Is land conservation or impervious cover reduction a major goal or objective of the open space, conservation subdivision or cluster development ordinance/policy?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>54. Are the submittal or review requirements for open space, conservation subdivision or cluster development greater than those for conventional development?</p> <p>If your answer is NO, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>55. Does the open space or cluster subdivision ordinance provide density bonuses when a certain percentage of open space is preserved (incentive zoning)?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>56. Does the open space or cluster subdivision ordinance require that open space areas associated with development be connected or consolidated into larger units?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>57. Are flexible site design criteria available for developers that utilize open space or cluster design options (e.g., smaller setbacks, road widths, lot sizes)?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>58. Are irregular lot shapes (e.g., pie-shaped, flag lots) allowed in the municipality to allow for flexibility in protecting important habitats and open space?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself .5 point.</p>					
<p>59. Are critical natural resource areas deducted from the total acreage count that is used to calculate density? (e.g. on a 50 acre site with 10 acres of natural resources; such as wetlands, forests, only 40 acres can be used to calculate density under zoning district regulations, and only those 40 acres can be developed).</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<i>Open Space Management</i>					
<p>60. Does the municipality have enforceable requirements to establish agreements that can effectively manage open space? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>61. Does a minimum percentage of open space have to be managed in a natural condition? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>62. Are allowable and unallowable uses for open space in residential developments defined? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>63. Can open space be managed by a third party using land trusts or conservation easements? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<i>Clearing and Grading</i>					
<p>64. Is there an ordinance or local law that requires erosion and sediment control on development sites using the design criteria in, "New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control"? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>65. Is there an ordinance that requires buffer zones be maintained between development and land preservation areas? If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>66. Do reserve septic field areas need to be cleared of trees at the time of development? If your answer is NO, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<i>Tree and Forest Conservation</i>					
<p>67. If forests are present at residential development sites, do stands have to be preserved?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>68. Are the limits of disturbance shown on construction plans adequate for preventing clearing of trees and natural vegetative cover during construction?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>69. Is there an ordinance or local law that requires forestry best management practices for timber harvesting and tree cutting?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<i>Conservation Incentives-financial</i>					
<p>70. Does the municipality have a local open space fund through bonding, real estate transfer tax, or other funding mechanism to encourage open space protection?</p> <p>If your answer is Yes give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>71. Does the municipality use local, county, state, federal or private open space funding for purchase or transfer of development rights programs?</p> <p>If your answer is Yes give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>72. Does the municipality provide information to landowners about reduced tax assessment under NYS Forest Tax Law, Section 480-A of Real Property Tax Law?</p> <p>If your answer is Yes give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>73. Does the municipality provide information to landowners about reduced tax assessment under NYS Agricultural District Law?</p> <p>If your answer is Yes give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>74. Does the municipality provide information to landowners about reduced local tax assessment for wetlands regulated under the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act, Section 24-0905 of the Act (Tax Abatement)?</p> <p>If your answer is Yes give yourself 1 point.</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<p>Time to Assess: Category II Questions 33-74 focused on the local laws, ordinances and procedures that promote (or impede) protection of existing natural areas and incorporation of open spaces into new development. There were a total of 48 points available. What was your total score?</p> <p>Subtotal Page 6 ____ + Subtotal Page 8 ____ + Subtotal Page 9 ____ + Subtotal Page 10 ____ + Subtotal page 11 ____ = _____</p> <p>Within Category II which question areas earned the most points? Which sections of the codes and ordinances are potential impediments to better development (did not earn points)?</p>				<p><u>Put notes here for Time to Assess:</u></p>	
<p>Category III: Design Elements for Stormwater Management</p>					
<p>Vegetated Open Channels</p>					
<p>75. Are curb and gutters required for most residential street sections?</p> <p>If your answer is NO, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>76. Are there established design criteria for swales that can provide stormwater quality treatment (i.e., dry swales, biofilters, or grass swales)?</p> <p>If your answer is yes, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>Rooftop Runoff</p>					
<p>77. Can rooftop runoff be discharged to yard areas?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					
<p>78. Do current grading or drainage requirements allow for temporary ponding of stormwater on front yards or rooftops?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point.</p>					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
Infiltration					
<p>79. Zoning and Subdivision regulations specifically permit green infrastructure practices including, but not limited to: green roofs; infiltration approaches such as rain gardens, stormwater planters, porous & permeable pavement, rain barrels and cisterns, tree boxes, downspout disconnect; and vegetated open swales.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>80. Local stormwater management regulations and development codes allow off-site stormwater management, especially in infill and redevelopment areas.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>81. Local regulations promote green infrastructure practices in Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) areas.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>82. Local government/ other public institution encourages/requires a pre-site plan meeting with developers to discuss stormwater management and green infrastructure approaches.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>83. Local agencies/ other public institution have the authority to enforce maintenance requirements.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>84. The local government/ other public institution sponsors demonstration projects for green infrastructure management best practices.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>85. Local government/ other public institution provides information brochure/manual for homeowners/agencies describing acceptable rainwater harvesting techniques.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>86. Is the local government/ other public institution cooperating in developing regional approaches to stormwater management and watershed protection?</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
Subtotal					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<p>Time to Assess: <i>Category III</i> Questions 75-86 focused on the local laws, ordinances and procedures related to stormwater management, specifically those encouraging green infrastructure practices. There were a total of 12 points available. What was your total score?</p> <p>Subtotal Page 13 = _____</p> <p>Within Category III which question areas earned the most points? Which sections of the codes and ordinances are potential impediments to better development (did not earn points)?</p>				<p><u>Put notes here for Time to Assess:</u></p>	
<p>Category IV: Promotion of efficient, compact development patterns and infill</p>					
<p>87. Areas of the municipality or institutional property have been identified for higher density development based on existing infrastructure capacity, cost for providing new services and access.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>88. Local sewer and water capital improvement plans follow development policies established in local comprehensive plans or institutional policy and target areas with existing development/infrastructure.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>89. A wide variety of housing types and sizes are allowed within infill areas as well as reduced minimum lot sizes and accessory dwelling units to increase density.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>90. Local stormwater management regulations provide a requirement that reduces on-site management requirements for projects that decrease total imperviousness on previously developed sites.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>91. Local government/other public institution plans (could be plans other than Comprehensive Plan) identify potential brownfield and greyfield sites and support their redevelopment.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>92. Capital improvement plans include infrastructure improvements (water, sewer, road, sidewalk upgrades) for identified brownfield and greyfield sites.</p> <p>If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					

QUESTIONS	Yes	No	Score	Local Law ID reference: code name/section/page #	Clarification notes
<p>93. Streamlined permitting procedures facilitate infill and brownfield sites. If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
<p>94. The local code/institutional policy differentiates between Greenfield, adaptive reuse, and infill sites. If your answer is YES, give yourself 1 point</p>					
Subtotal					
<p>Time to Assess: <i>Category IV</i> Questions 87-94 focused on the local laws, ordinances and procedures that encourage land conservation and smart growth by allowing higher density in developed areas and brownfield sites. There were a total of 8.0 points. What was your total score?</p> <p>Subtotal Page 15 = _____</p> <p>Within Category IV which question areas earned the most points? Which sections of the codes and ordinances are potential impediments to better development (did not earn points)?</p>				<p><u>Put notes here for Time to Assess:</u></p>	
<p>To determine Final Score, add up Subtotal from each Time to Assess</p>					
<p>Category I. Reduction of Impervious Cover: Questions 1-32</p>					
<p>Category II. Preservation of Natural Features and Conservation Design: Questions 33-74</p>					
<p>Category III. Design Elements for Stormwater Management: Questions 75-86</p>					
<p>Category IV. Promotion of efficient, compact development patterns and infill: Questions 87-94</p>					
Final Score					

Stormwater Coalition Scorecard

Inventory of Municipal Codes for Green Infrastructure Practices

(September 2011)

SCORING (A total of 100 points are available):

A variety of design concepts that support green infrastructure practices are described in detail in the Scorecard. Green infrastructure practices are included within the NYSDEC MS4 Permit and the NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual (August, 2010), a manual used by developers when designing stormwater management practices. This manual is also referenced in the NYSDEC Construction Activity Permit and municipal stormwater management laws.

The scoring system provides a base-line number that a municipality can use to evaluate their existing land use laws and procedures against recognized land use regulations and procedures that support green infrastructure practices.

The intent of the scoring system below is to make municipalities aware that updating local regulations and procedures to incorporate design concepts that support mandated State and Federal regulations for water quality and stormwater management will provide a more inclusive and concise development review process.

Municipality's Score:

90- 100 Congratulations, your municipality's development rules and land use policies include design concepts that support green infrastructure practices put forward in the NY State Stormwater Management Design Manual 2010 and listed in the MS4 permit as post construction non-structural stormwater management practices.

80 - 89 Your local development rules are good because they include some of the principles put forward in the NY State Stormwater Management Design Manual 2010 and MS4 permit. However, updating development regulations to reflect the ideas behind newly mandated green infrastructure practices would be useful (see practices listed within the NY State Stormwater Management Design Manual 2010 and MS4 permit).

70 - 79 Significant opportunities exist to improve your development rules to reflect the ideas put forward in recent years for preservation of natural resources, stormwater management and planning for efficient, compact growth patterns. Consider updating development regulations to reflect the ideas behind newly mandated green infrastructure practices listed within the NY State Stormwater Management Design Manual 2010 and MS4 permit.

60 - 69 It is recommended that your development regulations be reassessed in order to better protect natural resources and provide for a development review process that incorporates principles of design that support stormwater management practices regulated by NY State. Newly mandated green infrastructure practices are listed within the NY State Stormwater Management Design Manual 2010 and MS4 permit.

Less than 60 Reform of the development regulations and guidelines is recommended in order to modernize the review process to incorporate a variety of water resource protection strategies. Newly mandated green infrastructure practices are listed within the NY State Stormwater Management Design Manual 2010 and MS4 permit. By providing updated local regulations that are in line with State and Federal regulations the development review process will be more inclusive and concise.