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MS4 101



Your Guide to the MS4 Program

WHAT IS MS4?

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program is mandated by Congress under the EPA's Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program. The MS4 Program is a comprehensive national program which addresses polluted stormwater runoff by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States.

The city, town, or county you serve is regulated under the MS4 program and has developed a Stormwater Quality Management Program (SWQMP) to follow as it operates its storm sewer system.



SWAC FACTS

- The program is an **unfunded federal mandate**. Communities must implement the program with local resources and funding strategies.
- The program was first required in 1987 through amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA). During Phase I, communities greater than 100,000 in population were regulated. Phase II began in 1999, when communities larger than 10,000 were regulated. **This includes all SWAC communities.**
- Each community receives a five-year stormwater permit. Throughout each permit, **communities are required to evaluate program performance to measure success through an Annual Report.**
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **periodically updates the requirements of the MS4 program**, which are generally implemented by each state.
- In Indiana, **the MS4 program is regulated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)** through the General NPDES Permit INR040000.



SWAC communities have consistently been recognized at the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting for implementing their programs at the highest level.

For more information & resources,
please visit:
www.siswac.org

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THE MCMs

The program consists of six **Minimum Control Measures (MCMs)**. Each MCM includes a variety of activities and goals, customized for the community, which are tracked and documented to gauge program success. The MCMs include, but are not limited to:

1

Public Education & Outreach

- Develop and distribute educational stormwater materials
- Perform outreach activities

2

Public Participation & Involvement

- Encourage residents to participate in the stormwater program
- Publicize meetings & events

3

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

- Implement & enforce ordinance to detect & eliminate illicit discharges
- Educate public & staff

4

Construction Site Runoff Management

- Implement & enforce erosion & sediment control ordinance
- Inspect construction sites

5

Post-Construction Stormwater Management

- Implement & enforce post-construction stormwater runoff ordinance
- Inspect BMPs annually

6

Municipal Operations & Good Housekeeping

- Implement plan to reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations
- Train staff annually



THE MISSION

The Southern Indiana Stormwater Advisory Committee is a regional partnership whose **core function is to guide stormwater quality programs in a cost-effective, consistent, and efficient manner**, striving through collaborative efforts to educate constituents, encourage involvement, and implement planning approaches to **improve the quality of life for the region** and society, now and into the future.



THE GOALS

- Implement federally mandated MS4 program
- Facilitate collaboration among member communities to progress regional stormwater goals
- Coordinate regional events, such as public meetings and community clean-ups, to both educate and involve the public
- Develop and distribute resources, such as stormwater educational materials and information for contractors, builders, businesses, residents and other constituents
- Protect water resources by developing consistent policies and reference materials, practicing sound environmental stewardship



THE HISTORY

Indiana began implementation of the MS4 program in 2003. Communities recognized needs in fulfilling each municipality's MS4 permit, so they developed the SWAC. Over the years, the SWAC has continued to enhance collaboration, educate the public, and develop regional training workshops and the Qualified Professional Inspector Program (QPI).



THE ACTIVITIES

SWAC ongoing activities include:

- Quarterly meetings, open to the public
- Education and outreach materials which are consistent across the region
 - Brochures
 - SWAC website
 - Social media
- Developed ordinances consistent yet tailored to each community
- Developed materials (among others):
 - SWAC Best Management Practices Manual
 - Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Standard Operating Procedures Field Guide
 - Drainage Detention System Guidebook: A Resource for Basin Owners on General Assessment & Maintenance Procedures
 - 17 construction site management and public education brochures (and counting!)
- Qualified Professional Inspector Program (QPI): Contractor Self-Inspection Program
- Regional Training Workshops
- IDEM Audit Preparation
- Annual Stormwater Awareness Week
- Attendance at the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting
- Technical collaboration and coordination with local Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and local consulting engineering firms



*The SWAC is a platform for collaboration, but does not wholly satisfy any community's permit. The **SWAC assists communities to better implement the MS4 program** efficiently to meet regulatory needs and serve the region.*