

Why have a Stormwater Utility Fee?



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
Environmental Finance Center

Stormwater utility fees provide a dedicated source of revenue for local governments to meet environmental, economic, and social goals associated with managing water quality and quantity.

Stormwater fees support...

Regulatory Compliance

There are 114 local governments in North Carolina that must comply with NPDES MS4 permit minimum control measures. A stormwater fee provides revenue to meet these requirements. Jurisdictions may benefit from stormwater revenues to comply with other rules as well, such as State nutrient rules.

Public Health and Community Resiliency

North Carolina residents are experiencing the negative health and safety effects of increased flooding. A stormwater fee provides a revenue source with which local governments can implement policies and capital projects that mitigate flooding challenges at the local level and help to build a resilient community.

Equity

With a stormwater fee, all properties with impervious surface pay for stormwater management. When a local government pays for stormwater with general fund dollars, some properties with large impervious surface areas do not pay.



Advising

The EFC has advised local governments on the basics of setting up a stormwater utility including basics on fee setting, statutory language on public hearing and advertisement requirements, and elected official education.

How the Environmental Finance Center can help

NC Stormwater Fees Dashboard

The North Carolina Stormwater Fees Dashboard is a free resource that allows local governments to compare what peer jurisdictions are charging residential customers for stormwater management. Local governments interested in setting a fee for the first time can use the Dashboard to set their fee and communicate to their stakeholders.



Stormwater Finance Course

The Environmental Finance Center teaches an annual workshop at the UNC School of Government in December. The workshop informs stormwater professionals about the latest trends in stormwater finance in the State, answers policy and legal questions, and provides an excellent networking opportunity.

Visit efc.sog.unc.edu for more info and resources

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