

# FAQ

## Can we just leave it the way it is?

No. Flooding is a major concern, even for towns and cities away from the coast.

## What can I do to reduce my fee if my town chooses a stormwater utility?

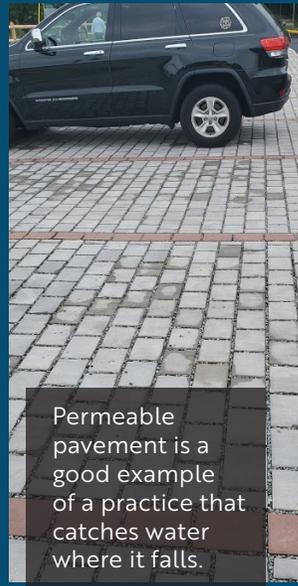
Actually, there's a lot that property owners can do. Localities must create a credit system so property owners can lower their costs if they manage the stormwater on their property before it reaches the drainage system. This can be achieved using both grey or green infrastructure.



## What if I rent my property?

Some lessees can expect fees to be passed on to them. Right now, there is no statewide legislation dealing with landlord-tenant shared costs.

**Across New Jersey, municipalities are revising their ordinances to take stormwater capture into account.**



## How can I find out what my town is planning?

Head to NJ Stormwater Utility Resource Center at [njfuture.org/](http://njfuture.org/) to learn more about stormwater utilities and find out how your municipality can get started.

## NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO ACT!

As state and federal funds become available, they will likely require additional funds to match the government contribution.

There are also low-interest loan options from the state infrastructure bank. A stormwater utility can help pay back those loans.

Learn more about this issue and connect with water advocates in your town.

Find out how to contact decision-makers where you live to let them know how their choices will affect you.



- Consulting Assistance
- Peer Learning Exchange
- NJDEP Stormwater Utilities Guidance

The resource center, created by New Jersey Future, is a one-stop-shop, housing technical legal and financial information, case studies, and helpful guidance on stormwater solutions, community process, and public engagement. Sign up to receive regular stormwater utility updates.



NewJerseyFuture



# What's the cost of inaction?

# FLOODING, POLLUTION, and RISING COSTS

- What's the stormwater issue?
- How does it affect my home or business & what is the cost of inaction?
- What kind of investments should my community make?
- How will we pay for these investments?



# WE ALL DEPEND ON STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE!

## SOLUTIONS

### FLOODING IS BAD FOR BUSINESS!

Recent storms have shown us what happens when water overwhelms our aging stormwater systems. Each of our homes and businesses are vulnerable to poorly supported water infrastructure. Unfortunately, not everyone is paying their fair share to upgrade and maintain those systems.

Infrastructure failure and polluted water lead to economic consequences, such as property damage, increased traffic, and business interruption.



Right now, the price of managing stormwater is included in other local government costs. Typically, these costs are paid for through property taxes. Unfortunately, this strategy is inequitable, resulting in residents bearing the brunt of flooding, traffic congestion, water pollution, and property damage.



Devastation from tropical storms has cost New Jersey in lost lives, ruined homes, and billions in tax dollars, all while exposing our residents to toxic and contaminated flood waters.

The incentives for creating more resilient water infrastructure have never been greater. Municipalities now have the option to explore whether a stormwater utility is the right move to pay for upgrades that will build resilience and reduce risk.

- Capital improvements, such as as:
  - Rain gardens
  - Permeable pavement
  - New culverts and catch basins
  - Larger pipes
- Operations and Maintenance
  - Catch basin cleaning
  - Street sweeping
  - Pipe cleaning
  - Caring for rain gardens

And more...

HOW CAN WE PAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS?

### Option 1: Do Nothing

Maintaining the status quo through property taxes means that residents and business owners will continue to pay for stormwater—even if their property does not contribute much runoff to the system.



### Option 2: Increase Property Taxes



Some towns are thinking about blanket increases to property taxes. This makes everyone pay the same rate, regardless of whether or not their property contributes more or less stormwater to the system.

### Option 3: Raise Additional Revenue

Some towns are considering creation of a stormwater fee based on the amount of paved surfaces to compensate for their burden on the stormwater system. All property owners—residential, commercial, and nonprofit—would be required to pay the fee.

