

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works Stormwater Remediation Program Credits FACT SHEET

Customers with questions about their stormwater fees may call 311 for referral to Customer Care. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to address your questions and concerns about single-family property tiers, as well as fees, credits, and caps.

Customers with Single Family Properties have several methods they can use to reduce their fees under the City's Stormwater Remediation Program. In all cases, customers will need to document the work they have completed in order to receive credits. These methods are:

Participation in an eligible event in the city, such as a stream clean-up, tree planting, and de-paving. The organizer must have the event approved by the city as eligible for stormwater remediation fee credits in advance, and provide the participants with the forms documenting their participation. The maximum credit is \$30 per year for 12 hours of participation; the credit is good for one year.

Simple best management practices (bmp), such as installing and maintaining rain gardens, tree planting, and rain barrels. These will be subject to inspection via a simple right of entry agreement; technical review of the application is not required. The maximum credit is \$16 per year for a rain garden, \$5 per year for a tree, and a one-time \$25 credit per 50-gallon rain barrel. These credits (except for rain barrels) last three years, and may be renewed for additional three year increments provided that inspections confirm the bmps are appropriately maintained.

Other types of residential bmps will be subject to inspection via a simple right of entry

agreement; technical review of the application by the department of public works is required. The maximum credit is 45 percent for 100 percent on-site treatment; the credit lasts three years, and may be renewed for additional three year increments provided that inspections confirm the bmps are appropriately maintained.

Customers who are signed up for the low income senior citizen water discount program for their water and wastewater bills will automatically receive discounts on their stormwater bills. The maximum discount is 100 percent; the credit lasts as long as the customer is enrolled in the water discount program.

Customers with Non Single Family Properties also have a variety of credits available to them. These customers will need to apply for the credits and provide documentation. Credits are available for:

Participation in an eligible event within the City, such as a stream clean-up, tree planting, and de-paving. This is limited to customers with a base fee of 2 equivalent residential units (ERU) or less. An ERU is 1,050 square feet of impervious surface area. The maximum credit is \$30 per year for 12 hours of participation; the credit is good for one year.



- 💧 Installing and maintaining BMPs approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment, on or off the property. This includes existing BMPs. The maximum credit is 45 percent for 100 percent on-site treatment, unless the treatment exceeds on-site impervious area; the credit lasts three years, and may be renewed for additional three year increments provided that inspections confirm the BMPs are appropriately maintained.
- 💧 BMPs associated with a recurring activity, such as mechanical sweeping or inlet cleaning. The maximum credit is 45 percent for 100 percent on-site impervious area treatment; the credit is good for one year.
- 💧 Fee reductions are available for parcels containing 50 to 820 square feet of impervious surface. The maximum credit is 33 percent; the credit lasts three years, and may be renewed for additional three year increments provided the impervious surface conditions do not change during the initial and subsequent credit periods.
- 💧 Credits are available for parcels containing less than 50 square feet of impervious surface. The maximum credit is 45 percent; the credit lasts three years, and may be renewed for additional three year increments provided the impervious surface conditions do not change during the initial and subsequent credit periods.
- 💧 Properties holding an industrial stormwater discharge permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment will receive a 55 percent credit.
- 💧 Properties that use privately owned and maintained stormwater systems that drain directly into the harbor will receive a 30 percent credit.

Non Single Family Properties may also be eligible for caps and/or exemptions on their stormwater fees. Owners of these properties must apply for the fee caps. These include:

- 💧 Properties with stormwater fees greater than \$1,000 AND City and State property tax bills greater than \$1,000. The fee will be capped at 20 percent of their property tax.
- 💧 Structures belonging to religious nonprofit institutions, provided the institution's property is not subject to City and State property tax and the structures are used exclusively as places of worship or K-12 education. The fee will be capped at \$3 per ERU each quarter, and will NOT apply to parking lots, driveways or walkways.
- 💧 Roads in cemeteries are exempt from the stormwater fee. An application with a map that documents the roads will be required.
- 💧 A veterans' organization that is exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(4) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code is exempt from being charged a stormwater remediation fee. Verification of status will be required.
- 💧 A Hardship Exemption from the stormwater remediation fee may be granted to a charitable, nonprofit organization that experiences a financial hardship as a result of the stormwater remediation fee. An application is required, as well as an Alternative Compliance Plan.

Customers wishing to appeal the Department of Public Works' decisions regarding fees, credits and caps must go to the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals.

For more information, call 311 or email publicworks@baltimorecity.gov.