

ELEMENT 5 RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM ADAPTATIONS

STEP 1: Water as a Resource

[Stormwater Management Best Practices](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

These web-based resources are based upon Integrated Management Practices for design, construction, and management of stormwater systems. EPA's stormwater management efforts continue in accordance with the new paradigms and requirements set out in [Executive Order \(EO\) 13514](#), signed in October 2009, the [Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 \(EISA\)](#), and [EO 13423](#).

[Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2009)

EPA's Office of Water coordinated the development of these federal guidelines and issued *Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act* on December 4, 2009.

[Wet Weather Flow Management Guidelines](#)

City of Toronto (2006)

The Wet Weather Flow Management Policy provides direction on how to manage wet weather flow on a watershed basis and in a manner that recognizes rainwater and snowmelt as a resource. The primary goal of the Wet Weather Flow Management Policy is to reduce the quantity, and to improve the quality of stormwater runoff, consistent with overall objectives and principles of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Master Plan.

STEPS 2 & 3: Value Soils, Preserve Vegetative Cover and Open Spaces

[Climate Resiliency Infographic](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Climate change is impacting urban areas in many ways, from exacerbating the urban heat island effect to elevating flood risk. This EPA website provides information about building green infrastructure to help improve community resilience.

[Green Infrastructure for Climate Resiliency](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

This website has a range of tools and resources to assist property owners in managing floodwaters, preparing for drought, reducing urban heat island impacts, reducing energy and potable water demands, and protecting the coastlines. It also features case studies organized by region, and material on the cost/benefit of low impact development (LID) approaches.

[Green Infrastructure for Climate Resiliency](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2014)

EPA's graphic and informative fact sheet can assist healthcare organizations in educating staff about the importance of green infrastructure approaches. It addresses: 1) climate change effects on cities, 2) manage local flooding, 3) build resilience to drought, 4) protect the coast, 5) use less energy managing water, and 6) reduce urban heat island effect.

[Healthy Food in Health Care: A Menu of Options](#)

Health Care Without Harm

A variety of health care institutions across the U.S. have begun to adopt programs, practices, and policies to support a healthy food system. Following their model, your facility can choose one, a few, or all of the recommendations in this menu to improve the quality of your food choices.

[Healthier Food](#)

Healthier Hospitals Initiative

This set of web-based downloadable resources provides healthcare organizations with the background information and step-by-step guidance needed to purchase more environmentally sustainable foods and serve healthier meals and beverages to patients, employees, visitors, and the communities they serve

[New York City Green Infrastructure Plan](#)

NYC Department of Environmental Protection (2013)

In September 2010, New York City released the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan that presents an alternative approach to improving water quality that integrates “green infrastructure,” such as Right-of-way Bioswales and green roofs, with investments to optimize the existing system and to build targeted, cost-effective “grey” or traditional infrastructure.

[The Case for Sustainable Landscapes](#)

Sustainable Sites Initiative (2009)

Any landscape, whether the site of a large subdivision, a shopping mall, a park, an abandoned rail yard, or a single home, holds the potential both to improve and to regenerate the natural benefits and services provided by ecosystems in their undeveloped state. This presents the case for developing landscapes that enhance ecosystem services.

STEP 4: Reduce Waste

[Less Waste](#)

Healthier Hospitals Initiative (2012)

This set of web-based downloadable resources provides healthcare organizations with the background information and step-by-step guidance needed to reduce, reuse, recycle, and segregate waste more effectively, and become better environmental stewards.

[Medical Waste Publications](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

In this website, EPA has compiled an extensive list of documents, factsheets, and other resources related to medical waste management, including both general guidance documents and information on medical waste treatment technologies.