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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:49 PM

**To:** Ransley, Lynda (PSP); O'Brien, Ed (ECY); Ann Butler; Cooley, Kristen (PSP)

**Subject:** Low Impact Development Training for the General Public.

On January 31 I attended the Department of Ecology Mt. Vernon workshop on the draft Municipal Stormwater Permits. I have been aware of the intended additions of Low Impact Development requirements, and enjoyed Ed O'Brien's discussion of that.

I observed here, and at an earlier session, that most small municipalities are hard pressed anymore for the staff time to do all the code reviews and rewriting needed to accommodate the new LID requirements, even when they are spread out over several years. I am also aware of organized efforts to eliminate or weaken the requirements. And, of course, other groups' desires to make them even stiffer.

There needs to be a public education program about this important issue so that the general populace can counter the efforts to weaken the requirements and also help their elected officials prioritize staff time to attend to the reviews and rewrites. Equip them to speak out, knowledgably, for LID as an important tool in preserving and improving Puget Sound.

Here in Skagit County we have had a few workshops and talks about LID over the past 4 or 5 years, but never anything current and certainly nothing focused on these specific requirements proposed for the new Municipal Stormwater permits.

As part of such a public education program, I think Ecology and the Puget Sound Partnership, along with People for Puget Sound (PPS being a region-wide education group) should produce a nice education package and then coordinate region-wide presentations – aimed at the general public. This could be via a traveling “Dog and Pony” show (like the Stormwater Permit workshops) or by training and certifying local environmental organizations to give it. Or maybe a combination of the two.

If there is someone else any of you think I should approach about this, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Pete Haase - Skagit County Volunteer