



Innovative Permitting Initiative

A Department of Environmental Services initiative to improve our technical assistance and permitting programs to facilitate increased adoption of best land development practices.

Goals:

- Better Overall Environmental Outcome
 - Streamline DES's Land Development Permitting Processes
 - Improve Coordination with other Agencies and Municipalities
- DES is making a significant investment of time and resources: DES received a \$275,000 EPA State Innovations Grant with an additional \$185,000 pledged in DES staff time.
 - Program Development: January – December 2009
 - Pilot Implementation: DES will pilot new procedures starting late Fall 2009

Key Components:

Enhanced Pre-application Meeting Procedures

- Detailed review of conceptual (pre-engineering) site plans and available resource information and discussion of opportunities to achieve superior environmental performance

Guidelines on Best Practices for Improved Environmental Performance

- Guidelines will cover **regulated areas** (e.g., wetlands, shoreland, stormwater management) as well as **non-regulated areas** (e.g., energy efficiency, habitat protection, water conservation, walkability)
- Guidelines will **utilize Existing Resources** – e.g., LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and LEED-Neighborhood Development (<http://www.usgbc.org>), Sustainable Sites Initiative (<http://www.sustainablesites.org>), National Home Builders Green Home Building Guidelines (<http://www.nahbgreen.org>)
- To include approaches to estimate the environmental benefits of better practices

Streamlined, Coordinated Permit Review and Technical Assistance

- Coordinated, streamlined project review by DES permit team for higher-performing projects
- Enhanced coordination with municipal review, Federal review, other state agencies
- Technical assistance to be provided to advance best practices from concept to design and implementation

Opportunities to be Involved:

- Direct Input or Comment on Any Aspect of Project
- Request to be on E-mail communication list to receive regular updates on project and drafts of all materials developed
- Contribute and/or Review Materials:
 - Best Practices & Ways to Measure Benefits
 - Procedures for Pre-Application Meeting, Technical Assistance, & Coordinated Permitting
- Participate in Focus Group and Public Meetings on Key Components

Questions/Comments or if Interested in Being Involved:

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Check DES website for information on the Innovative Permitting Initiative.
Look under A-Z list: [Innovative Permitting and Technical Assistance Initiative](#)