

Water Quality Trading and Fee Reduction Programs

Public Programs Providing Incentive for Private Landowners to Meet Today's Water Quality Compliance Goals



Business Challenge: Public entities are constantly challenged to meet local, regional and federal water quality goals through the EPA MS4 program. These entities are searching for new and creative ways to engage private landowners to improve the quality and quantity of water discharged from their facilities. Implementation of programs such as water quality credit trading or stormwater utility fee reduction provide financial returns to these private landowners on existing stormwater system retrofits or implementation of Stormwater Green Infrastructure (SGI) at their sites.

Solution

There are a wide variety of water quality trading and fee reduction programs currently in place across the country with more forthcoming to be implemented. These programs benefit both the private landowner and the public entity, not to mention the environment. Utilization of these programs will improve water quality, can reduce the quantity being discharged offsite, initiate cost savings, as well as provide opportunities to enhance environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals. Stormwater can be an afterthought for most facility operators until there is a flooding event or a Notice of Violation (NOV) issued by a regulatory agency. These programs provide clear paths to compliance with either active or passive conversion of existing assets and provide a return on investment along the way.

What are some examples of stormwater cost share retrofits?

- Conversion of stormwater ponds into productive wetlands
- Conversion of dry detention basins into infiltration basins
- Installation of rain gardens and bioretention basins
- Reduction of water quantity discharged from a private facility
- Permeable pavers
- Green roofs
- Creation of additional water storage in existing assets to avoid flooding

The three major benefits of cost-share retrofits and stormwater volume credit trading

1. Save Money

- Reduce stormwater fees
- Receive up to 50 percent in cost share to cover project expenses
- Create water quality credits that can be purchased by others to demonstrate compliance
- Reduce maintenance costs

2. Promote ESG and Meet a Number of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Take urgent action to combat climate change

3. Improve Public Image and Agency Relations

- Demonstrate your commitment to the community and the environment
- Work with the relevant public agencies and develop a mutually beneficial relationship where both parties win

Our Approach

We work with you and your municipality to develop the best approach for your unique property and program.

Our experts provide support in the following areas:

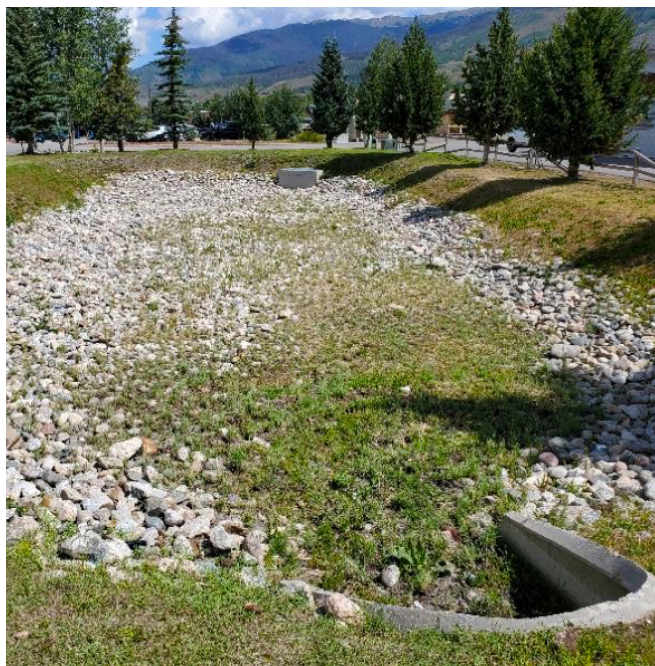
- Performing pilot and feasibility studies
- Completing project applications
- Collaboration with local and state agencies
- Full scale engineering design
- Environmental and wetland specialists
- Geographic information system (GIS) support
- Construction/construction oversight
- Maintenance

Retrofit and Credit Trading Experience

Stormwater maintenance and management is one of Apex's core capabilities. Each year, we help over 500 private and public sector clients avoid regulatory penalties and capture capital investment savings. This entails over 25K site visits at over 4K sites annually.

Apex's team of water experts have developed and implemented these programs throughout the country, with incredible results, including:

- Reduction of nutrients including total suspended solids (TSS), total kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), nitrate (NO₃), total ammonia nitrogen (TAN), total nitrogen (TN), organic nitrogen (ON), total phosphorus (TP) and organic phosphorus (OP) by 20 to 75 percent
- Implementations requiring little to no earthwork
- Reductions in stormwater fees ranging from 10 to 70 percent
- Identifying and securing cost share funds to help cover up to 50 percent of a project's costs



Not sure if Water Quality Trading and Fee Reduction Programs could be a good fit for you?

Please [contact us](#) to set up a presentation tailored to your specific program needs.

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