

Low Impact Development Code Changes FAQ — December 2014

1) What's happening now?

As part of the current Stormwater Code update cycle, Department of Ecology (ECY) requires the City to update all "development-related codes, rules, standards, or other enforceable documents" to support the use of low impact development. Several City departments are reviewing their respective codes to remove impediments to LID.

2) What is Low Impact Development?

Low-impact development (LID) is a stormwater and land use management strategy that strives to mimic natural hydrologic processes to reduce the amount of stormwater that runs off a site. LID strategies include conservation, use of on-site natural features, site planning, and distributed stormwater management practices that are integrated into a project design.

3) What does the ECY permit requirement say?

The intent of the revisions shall be to make LID the preferred and commonly-used approach to site development. The revisions shall be designed to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff in all types of development situations.

DPD intends to submit proposed code changes to the City Council in 2015.

4) What are the project benefits?

After we complete our review, we will make changes to codes and rules to make it easier to achieve low impact development. We will also encourage LID techniques as part of standard development projects. By treating stormwater close to its source, we can:

- Reduce environmental impacts
- Prevent erosion
- Protect water quality
- Preserve wildlife habitat
- Decrease infrastructure costs

5) Will DPD have any public meetings?

An open house on proposed draft changes to the Environmentally Critical Areas regulations is scheduled on February 25, 2015, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at City Hall. DPD will be available to discuss the Low Impact Development code changes at this event.

Additionally, DPD is available by invitation to attend community group meetings to discuss the proposed code changes. Please contact Nick Welch via e-mail at nicolas.welch@seattle.gov or by calling 206-684-8203.