



Center for
Urban Responses
to Environmental
Stressors



Community Resources

Learn Money Saving Tips at Home

Both DTE and Consumers Energy will visit your home for free to show you how you can save on your utility bills. They will also install energy saving products, like faucet aerators that use less water by mixing with air, LED bulbs, and pipe insulation for **FREE if you're a customer.**

DTE: 866-796-0512

Consumers Energy: 877-813-9617

Program for Detroiters with Income at or below 150% poverty

The Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) is available for Detroiters with income at or below 150% poverty. The program gives:

- Up to \$1,000 in bill assistance a year (\$25 monthly bill credit and up to \$700 in arrears forgiveness)

- Home water audit

- plumbing repairs up to \$1,000

- Water saving kits and training

CALL: 313-386-WRAP

OR VISIT: www.waynemetrol.org/wrap

Other Water Affordability Resources:



EcoWorks: 313-894-1030



A Community Action Agency

Oakland Livingston

Human Service Agency (OLHSA)

Oakland County: 248-479-6516

Livingston County: 517-292-2969



Monroe County Opportunity Program

(MCOP): 734-241-2775



Wayne Metropolitan Community
Action Committee: 313-PHN-UMBER



Water

FACT
SHEET



"After attending this, I will check my home for leaks."

Water Systems 101

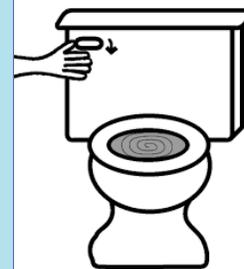
After hearing concerns from Detroiters about water costs and local flooding, our Community Engagement team hosted speakers to talk to the community about our water systems. At our community chat, speakers shared information on how we get water, where our water goes, and how changes in the water system can affect our homes. We also learned key tips on how to save money on our water bills! The event allowed us to learn about urban waterways and how our city's water system works.

Check your Water Meter

Your water meter is likely in your basement or right outside of your house. Write down the numbers from the meter, then do not run any water in your home for three hours. Don't shut off your water from the main source. Read the numbers again when the time is up: if the numbers have changed then you have a leak.

How to Take a Water Meter Reading

Your water meter looks like the odometer of a car. To take a reading, write down the numbers at the bottom



Check Toilets

Drop food coloring or a dye tablet into the toilet tank, then wait ten minutes. If dye or food coloring show in your toilet bowl, your toilet is leaking.



"I found I had two toilets with leaks after trying the dye test. I fixed them myself, and once I made the very minor repairs, my water bill went down: it was averaging \$340 a month and higher now it's \$27 a month."

- Donele Wilkins, Detroit Resident and CURES Community Advisory Board Member

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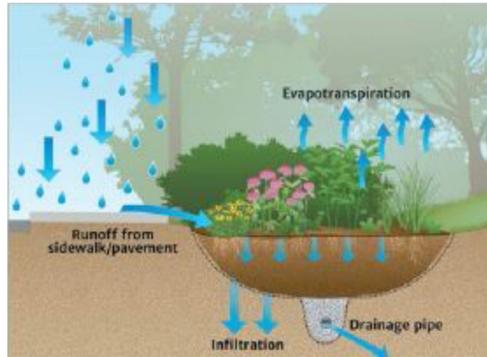


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What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is built to reduce the amount of stormwater going into our drainage system. Stormwater comes from rain and snow that runs off of our property and into storm drains. Wastewater is the water we flush and goes down our drains inside our home. Detroit’s drain system collects both stormwater and wastewater, and during heavy rains the system may overload and cause flooding. Green infrastructure helps slow and return water to the ground naturally instead of routing it into our drainage system. The water can then be absorbed by soil and used by plants.

Wayne State’s Healthy Urban Waters Center is researching how well green infrastructure works by installing it in



parts of the city and measuring flooding afterwards to see if anything changed. Another project looks at turning abandoned lots into bio-retention basins (see picture) that filter stormwater. This results in stormwater that is filtered, so that oils and other runoff from the street do not enter our water table.



Community Questions

Q. Can I build green infrastructure at home?

A. Yes! You can reduce storm water at home.

Downspout Disconnection: if the downspout from your gutter goes to your driveway or sidewalk, turn it or extend it to reach to the grass. The rain water will be soaked up by your lawn and not the sewer.

Making a Rain Barrel: installing a rain barrel under your downspout will collect rain water before it gets to the ground. We don’t recommend drinking it, but saved rain water can be used to water your lawn and plants on dry days. When you use less from your hose, you save more on your bill! Rain barrels can be made with low cost materials like garbage cans, and there are plenty of DIY videos on YouTube if you want to build one yourself.



To learn more about CURES, contact Rochelle Chapman at 313-577-5045 RochelleChapman@wayne.edu

STUDENT SPOT LIGHT: DETROIT BIODIVERSITY NETWORK

Students of Detroit Biodiversity Network with Daryl M. Pearson, WSU Chief Sustainability Officer (center). Taken from Instagram @detroitbiodiversitynetwork]



We asked our friends at Healthy Urban Waters which community organizations were creating green infrastructure, and they introduced us to Detroit Biodiversity Network (DBN), a community-focused organization run by Wayne State Students! DBN builds green infrastructure projects on campus and in nearby neighborhoods, improving the sustainability and storm resiliency of our community.

DBN grows all their plants in a greenhouse on our campus, and uses only Michigan native plants for projects. Using local plants insures they can survive our unpredictable weather. DBN leads workshops and presentations for students and the community on growing food, planting, and ecology, and can be seen at our farmer’s market on campus selling plants from the greenhouse. Their projects can be seen both on and off campus. “Since we started in 2017, we’ve planted eight demonstration gardens, two parking lot bioswales, and managed a community garden,” says Natalie Lyon, the group’s co-founder.

For more information on Detroit Biodiversity Network, view their website at www.detroitbiodiversitynetwork.com or follow them on Instagram @detroitbiodiversitynetwork.

