



Environmental Rate Consultants, Inc.
Storm Water Professionals

<http://www.ercerc.com>

Storm Water Program Needs Analysis

The Needs Analysis is an **inexpensive first step** toward developing the *Business Plan* and necessary foundation for a Successful Storm Water Utility Program

The **primary benefit of performing a** storm-water needs analysis for your community is to provide staff with an accurate determination of the current level of storm water services and the current cost of providing those services.. This information can then be carried forward to **the elected officials** as proof regarding the amount of burden storm water has on the general fund and the strong argument for establishing a stand-alone dedicated funding source for storm-water management activities.



A Needs Analysis can be completed in less than three months for under \$25,000 for any size community

Virtually all communities that we talk to about the concept of a storm water program Needs Analysis agree that this type of **in-expensive** approach makes sense for their community. The community can invest a relatively small amount of funds to receive enough useful information through the Needs Analysis process to allow the Elected Officials to make a "go" or "no go" decision on proceeding with creating and implementing a storm water utility program. In addition, the community staff will receive a useful study that organizes and provides an inventory of all storm water activities which can be used internally by staff from that point forward, whether the elected officials decide to proceed or not.

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Other Benefits of the Needs Analysis

1. Begins the initial steps required for a legally defensible Business Plan that guides your community's storm water management water quality and water quantity activities and responsibilities
2. An organized list and inventory of all storm water activities currently being performed within the community
3. A detailed list of costs associated with the list of all storm water activities currently being performed within the community including water quality and water quantity activities
4. A Financing Analysis that may determine how to pay for the stormwater utility implementation. ie internal loans, bond anticipation notes, state financing options, etc
5. An estimate of the number of ERUs and potential revenue to support the storm water program
6. An estimate of the General Fund and other fund relief associated with the current storm water activities
7. A presentation to the Elected Officials illustrating the results of the needs analysis study

ERC staff has provided storm water and water resource financial consulting and storm water utility consulting services to over 60 communities throughout the United States. The following is a partial list of satisfied clients:

Lorain County, OH
City of Toledo, OH
City of Columbus, OH
City of Chattanooga, TN
City of Suffolk, VA
City of Newark, OH
City of Lancaster, OH
City of Hudson, OH
City of Fairborn, OH
City of Gahanna, OH
City of Greenville, OH
City of Milford, OH
City of Fort Wayne, IN
Clermont County, OH
Butler County, OH
Hamilton County, OH
Lucas County, OH
Wood County, OH
Louisville, Jefferson County, KY
Village of Woodridge, IL
City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, OK
Norman, OK
Gwinnett County, GA
Lake County, IL

ERC has provided extensive consulting services in the areas of developing and implementing all facets of water resource and local and regional storm water utility program implementation, billing system and database analysis services including:

- Storm water utility program implementation;
- **NPDES program permits plans including Phase I and Phase II**
- Equivalent Residential Unit estimates and calculations;
- Cost of service analysis;
- Rate Structure design and analysis;
- Rate study analysis
- Cash flow analysis;
- Storm water financing options analysis;
- Storm water credits program development;
- Master account and billing system design and implementation;
- Database analysis and programming;
- Strategic and master planning;
- Maintenance management system design and implementation;
- Customer service and response;
- Public information programs; and
- Wastewater rate setting and analysis;
- Water rate setting and analysis;
- Independent financial review;
- Budget forecasting and development;
- Financial planning;
- Organizational and Institutional review and analysis.