Texas Stormwater Scorecard

Evaluating Municipal Policies for Green Stormwater Infrastructure & Low Impact Development

ENVIRONMENT TEXAS RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER
Clean Air
Clean Water
Open Spaces
Texas Terminology

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI): Austin
- Low Impact Development (LID): Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio
Scope of Study

- First statewide GSI/LID policy study
- Includes state’s 5 biggest cities
- Evaluates policies within cities
Study Results

Austin: 90%
San Antonio: 65%
Fort Worth: 60%
Houston: 50%
Dallas: 40%
Previous Checklists

- EPA Water Quality Scorecard (2009)
- EPA Green Infrastructure Case Studies (2010)
- EPA Dallas Green Infrastructure Review (2014)
- ULI Harvesting the Value of Water (2017)
EPA Case Studies Checklist

- Stormwater regulation
- Review and revise local codes
- Demonstration and pilot projects
- Street retrofits
- Capital projects
- Education and outreach
- Stormwater fees
- Stormwater fee discounts
- Other incentives (regulatory, financial, awards)
# Texas Scorecard Checklist

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<th>1) Flood detention requirement</th>
<th>6) Financial incentives</th>
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<td>2) Water quality requirement</td>
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Private Development Policies

1) Flood detention requirement
2) Water quality requirement
3) GSI/LID regulatory credit
4) Stormwater retention requirement
Private Development Incentives

5) Regulatory incentives

6) Financial incentives

7) Stormwater fee discount
Public Initiatives

8) Capital project construction

9) Street construction

10) Education
Methodology

- Information from 50+ agencies, businesses, and organizations
- Full credit vs. partial credit
- Non-municipal policies included if available within city
- MS4 requirements generally not included
Austin: 90%

- Longtime support from community for water quality
- Policies in every category
- Actual use of GSI lower than expected
San Antonio: 65%

- Strong support from local river authority
- LID required in riverside developments
- Voluntary LID program with multiple incentives
Fort Worth: 60%

- Strong support from local river authority
- Has adopted NCTCOG’s iSWM manual
- Good voluntary LID policies
Houston: 50%

- Detention overshadows water quality
- Few official LID policies and programs
- Strong support from Harris County, private sector
Dallas: 40%

- Prominent LID demonstration projects
- Few LID policies and programs
- New design manuals include LID, but not yet adopted
Recommendations

- Austin: simpler policies, better promotion
- San Antonio: citywide policies
- Fort Worth: citywide policies
- Houston: better incentives
- Dallas: regulatory credit, better incentives
Audience Concerns

PUBLIC
• Dirty water
• Flooding

DEVELOPERS
• Bottom-line benefit
• Buyer amenity

POLICYMAKERS
• Measured effectiveness
• Cost (government, constituents)
Full report:

http://environmenttexascenter.org/reports/txe/texas-stormwater-scorecard

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