



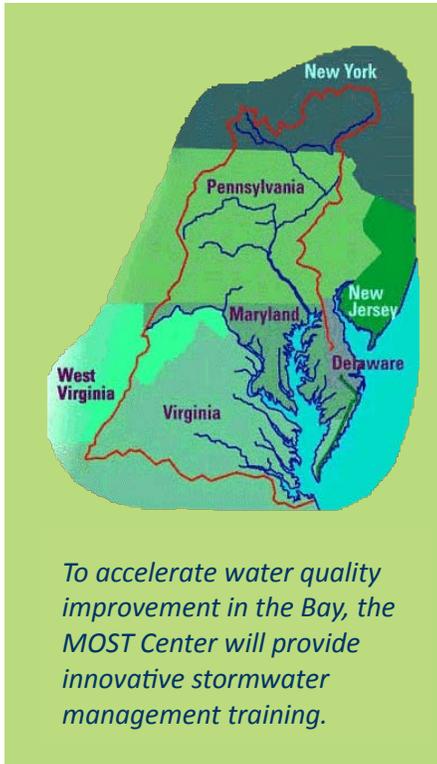
University of Maryland
Environmental Finance Center

MUNICIPAL ONLINE STORMWATER TRAINING CENTER

(MOST) CENTER



The Low Impact
Development Center



To accelerate water quality improvement in the Bay, the MOST Center will provide innovative stormwater management training.

What is the MOST Center?

The University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in partnership with the Low Impact Development Center, Inc. received a five-year grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop the first Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center to serve the Chesapeake Bay region. Similar to the way many universities and community colleges across the country are teaching their courses, the MOST Center will be developed as a Massive Open Online Course. This method of delivery will allow for wide participation and open access through the Internet. The MOST Center will include traditional course materials such as reading assignments, video lectures, and online exercises, as well as discussion boards and other activities that help create partnerships between participants, nonprofit organizations, local governments, funders, and instructors. The training site will be virtual and open to participants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Who is the TARGET AUDIENCE for the MOST Center?

The MOST Center will include new and innovative information and training materials that can be used by anyone interested in learning more about stormwater management. This includes municipal and county staff managing stormwater programs, elected officials, planners, citizens,

businesses, nonprofits, and professionals wanting to develop better knowledge and dialogue on stormwater management program development. MOST Center training will include newly developed online courses, which will be enhanced with links to other relevant training programs and resources being delivered throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

What Will Be Gained from Participating in MOST Center Training?

By participating in MOST Center training, users with limited travel and conference budgets can continue to meet stormwater program requirements. The MOST Center will provide certificates of completion, Professional Development Hours (PDHs), Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), and recognition for participants who reach higher levels of learning in training sessions. Users will gain access to custom-built training courses, discussion boards, and outside resources from other training centers, professional organizations, and stormwater industry organizations that can help enhance stormwater programs and careers. The trainings will be self-paced, accessible at any time, and help the user develop a tailored program using the course materials that best suit their needs.



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE MOST CENTER?

Please visit <http://efc.umd.edu/mostcenter> or contact Medessa Burian at msburian@umd.edu for more information.

How Will the MOST Center Be Organized?

The MOST Center will host courses and workshops on the wide-range of topics required to develop successful stormwater programs at the local level. Courses will be organized by topic areas such as finance, community outreach, and BMP maintenance and construction. The MOST Center will provide tailored information on each topic to facilitate communication and increase the level of understanding of a particular audience. Users will be able to determine their starting level of knowledge through self-assessments and then progressively move through more complex and comprehensive materials.

The MOST Center will include a Blackboard similar to systems used by universities and community colleges. The Blackboard will include checklists, templates, self-directed assignments, user-posted information, blogs, model codes and ordinances, and many other supporting materials for the development of stormwater programs.

How Can We Improve and Determine MOST Center Success?

The MOST Center will be an easily accessible, user-friendly source of continuing professional education and is expected to attract a wide range of stormwater professionals and program managers. Training will include

comprehensive recognition and educational achievement for municipal and elected officials. The MOST Center will be developed so that continual feedback from users will keep the training relevant, up-to-date, and responsive to user needs throughout the years. The website will also be designed to capture analytics or user profiles, which may include login frequency by sector and individual, feedback on program usefulness, and tracking of individual progress such as passing online testing modules.

When Can We Start Using the MOST Center?

The MOST Center will be developed over a five (5) year period. The project team is currently reaching out to professional organizations, program managers, NGOs and other end users to determine program needs. The team is also meeting with professionals, organizations that represent underserved communities, stormwater vendors, researchers, and other groups that will partner to help create the learning network and promote the center. In year two, the training program will launch, and the team will work with users and partners to fill gaps and make any needed improvements to the delivery system. In year three, the team will expand the program and add new modules such as green jobs, resiliency, and integrated water management as well as other relevant and cutting edge stormwater topics. Years four and five will focus on program maintenance and developing a self-supporting system of funding that will keep MOST a critical and important resource for the Chesapeake Bay for years to come.



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