



Stormwater Authority of Chester

City of Chester, Pennsylvania



Stormwater Authority of Chester, PA
Community-Based Public Private Partnership (CBP3) for Largescale Green Infrastructure

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & OUTCOMES

\$ \$50+ Million Green Stormwater Infrastructure Redevelopment; Phase II MS4 Permit

Retrofit 350 Impervious Acres; Target is Significantly Beyond Compliance; Addresses Localized Flooding, Area CSOs, Heavy Trash & Debris, Green Streets, and Park Improvements

JOBS Triple Bottom Line CBP3 RFP with Community-Based KPI's & 30-year contract

Socio-economic Impacts – Small Business & Local Jobs Growth for Small, Minority, Local Businesses and Residents - \$ 149+ Million

4 Local General Contractors - Each Awarded a \$1M + Contract to Start

Cloud Expedited Establishment of Stormwater Utility Through CBP3 Special Purpose Entity -Partner

Hand Payment Incentives for Accelerated Achievement of Target Outcomes

Gear \$ 24+ Million in Operations & Maintenance Spending

Group Diverse, Inclusive Community Outreach & Engagement to Deliver Multiple GI & Other Benefits

People 34% Local Resident Participation vs. Goal of 15%

Community Based Public Private Partnership Center of Excellence

The City of Chester, Pennsylvania is a community of 34,000 located along the Delaware River immediately south of Philadelphia. Chester has long experienced disparately significant socio-economic, public health and environmental impacts related to poverty and urban blight, industrial discharges, area combined sewer overflows, local flooding, deteriorated infrastructure and declining water quality conditions and overall quality of life.

Through support from EPA Region 3, the City, which had incorporated an unfunded stormwater authority, the Stormwater Authority of the Chester (“Stormwater Authority of Chester”, or SAC) established a Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3) in 2018 by developing a CBP3 sustainability-outcome focused RFP aimed at seeking a business enterprise partnership to quickly develop its utility, seek funding and expedite implementation of a planned \$50 million dollar program focused on building green and sustainable stormwater infrastructure, while cleaning up neighborhoods and creating jobs through stormwater fees established and collected through the new utility. The private partner was selected through an open and competitive bid process led by the SAC. Goals of the CBP3 program aligns with the needs of the community to meet regulatory Clean Water Act requirements, improve stormwater management, implement large-scale integrated green stormwater infrastructure, and drive local economic development and jobs growth, creating greater opportunities for local and regional small and minority-owned businesses.

The first action after establishing the program was to set up a vehicle with an 18-month deadline to collect revenues dedicated to stormwater management investments primarily through support of a \$1 million grant from PENNVEST.



The Community-Based Public-Private Partnership Center for Water, Energy and Equitable Economic Resilience
A Center of Excellence of the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance

This revenue internalized investments into the City that had previously remained on the sidelines, thereby saving money for the City and through the CBP3 partnership, created the potential for large-scale financing.

PENNVEST, recognizing the increased scale and surety of project delivery through the CBP3 program, has provided over \$40 million in assistance to the City within a 3-year time period as a mix of grants and sub-market loans – a FIRST ever stormwater financing for a Phase II MS4 community! This assistance has driven major upgrades in addressing historic issues regarding the stormwater conveyance system, such as standing water in critical areas in the City that has been an endemic public safety issue for many years. The three large green stormwater infrastructure projects that have been constructed-to-date are located in public parks and on school properties, maximizing the public benefits of these practices – thus creating more community value and greater overall support for the program.

Additionally, the program has doubled its goal for local resident utilization in filling its workforce and has awarded four local contractors with \$1M+ awards to implement projects. It continues to progress, creating greater a healthier community with a greater sense of safety, pride and hope for a sustainable future. The Stormwater Authority of Chester's CBP3 success is not only a model for historic Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, but for all struggling Phase II MS4 communities!

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