

The Blue Star Award

For Excellence in Stormwater Management



THE
BLUE STAR
AWARD

Recognizing Excellence in
Community Stormwater
Management

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

For communities that want to exceed minimum standards and achieve excellence in stormwater management, Minnesota's regulatory and permitting programs offer little incentive.

The Blue Star Award is a voluntary program designed to offer communities that excel in stormwater management the positive public recognition they deserve. The Blue Star Assessment is a voluntary self-assessment that rates key community indicators such as city development codes, site-design guidelines and post-construction stormwater runoff standards.

Communities that achieve a minimum score on the Blue Star Assessment automatically earn the Blue Star Award and are recognized as leaders in stormwater management in Minnesota. By offering recognizable public incentive for strengthening municipal stormwater management performance, the Blue Star Program can help cities overcome the obstacles to protecting our water resources through better stormwater management.

The Blue Star Assessment

The Blue Star Assessment is designed to be flexible. Communities that excel in stormwater management can earn the award regardless of population, MS4 permit status, development status, and natural resource condition.

Time Commitment

The Blue Star Assessment takes approximately one hour to complete. The www.bluestarmn.org website lets users log-on to the website and conduct the secure assessment in their own private home page. Communities can stop and save their assessment in progress, allowing users to complete the assessment at their convenience. The Blue Star Assessment website will formally launch on July 14th, 2010.

Recognition Duration

Blue Star Award status lasts for 3 years from the date of recognition. After 3 years, a community will be asked to conduct the assessment again to maintain their certification.

Assessment Components

The Blue Star Assessment was crafted by Emmons & Olivier Resources Inc (EOR) and Friends of the Mississippi River in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD), The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), Northland NEMO and other project partners & advisors.

Assessment components include:

Section One: Planning and Preservation

This section includes questions on the following sub-topics:

- Part A: Water Friendly Development Patterns
- Part B: Natural Resource Preservation & Management
- Part C: Stormwater Management Funding & Incentives

Section Two: Stormwater Management Standards and Practices

This section includes questions on the following sub-topics:

- Part D: Impervious Cover Management
- Part E: Stormwater Management Policies
- Part F: Green Streets For Cleaner Water

Section Three: Stormwater Pollution Prevention

This section includes questions on the following sub-topics:

- Part G: Education & Community Programs
- Part H: Inspection & Enforcement
- Part I: Source Control

Program Partnerships

Connection with the MPCA's Green Step Program

The MPCA's Green Step program offers cities an opportunity to conduct self-assessments on a broad range of environmental sustainability indicators. Cities that achieve a high score will be officially recognized by the State as "Green Step" cities through the MPCA's sustainable communities program.

The Green Step Program will incorporate the Blue Star assessment & recognition protocol as the Green Step Programs flagship municipal stormwater management assessment methodology.

Blue Star Award Partners & Sponsors

The Blue Star Program is brought to you by Friends of the Mississippi River in partnership with Emmons & Olivier Resource Inc. with technical assistance provided by The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, The Minnesota Green Step Cities Program, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Project NEMO, The City of Blaine, The City of Woodbury, The City of Lino Lakes, and The City of Inver Grove Heights.

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- The Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation
- The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Earn the Blue Star Award!

Beginning July 14th, 2010 Minnesota communities can log-in to www.bluestarmn.org and begin their voluntary online self-assessment.

For More Information

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