



City of Waterloo, ON
2010 CAMA Environmental Award
Certificate of Merit
Stormwater Management Program and Funding Review

In December, 2009, City of Waterloo Council approved, in principle, moving the City's stormwater program from a property tax-supported program to a user-rate funded program.

After studying the issue for more than three years, in partnership with neighbouring City of Kitchener, Waterloo staff recommended an approach that creates a more equitable model of paying for stormwater management and addresses shortfalls in funding.

Stormwater management programs in Waterloo are currently funded through property taxes, along with many other municipal services. With deteriorating storm water infrastructure, increased water quality requirements and accelerated climate change impacts, the stormwater management system is under significant strain and if left unmaintained will only get worse.

The new funding method identifies a two-phased approach. The first phase is a tiered flat user rate funding model based on property type and size. In a later second phase, the model would move to an impervious based user rate funding model.

In the end, those who place the greatest demand on the stormwater system are charge the highest fees. Over time, incentives could be introduced to allow property owners to reduce their rate. A phased approach, over a number of years, has been proposed for the program, with an implementation date planned for January 1, 2011.

The program has advantages from an environmental perspective and reduces the demands on the stormwater system. For more, visit www.waterloo.ca.