

EARTHSMART Actions

Stormwater Quality Action 5: Design your own solutions

Use this document to guide you through brainstorming, designing and implementing your own solutions to reduce neighborhood stormwater pollutants.

1. Using your neighborhood map, go to the area you marked as having the most significant pollution problem. What activities are happening nearby that are contributing to this pollutant being found in this location?

- Irrigation (sprinkler) water is overflowing and carrying sediment away
- Fertilizer is being used on nearby plantings or lawns
- Dark spots on the pavement look like oil has been dripping from cars
- Litter and trash from nearby stores, overflowing trash cans, or other
- Other? _____

2. What information could you tell your family or neighbors that would be the most helpful to changing the behaviors that are contributing to pollutants?

- Pollutants in the stormwater system end up in our waterways.
- Plants, animals and people are harmed by these pollutants downstream.
- Adjusting your sprinklers to reduce overspray will reduce pollutants flowing into the storm drains and out to the waterways.
- One drop of oil pollutes a million drops of water downstream. Check your car for oil leaks.
- Pet waste contains harmful microorganisms that are carried with stormwater into our rivers, lakes and the ocean.
- What else? _____

3. Each neighborhood is unique. What ways would be the most effective way to communicate these ideas to your neighbors?

- a. Talk to your neighbors in person
- b. Put up signs nearby explaining the problem and solutions
- c. Post educational information on social media or a community group
- d. Write letters to your neighbors
- e. What else?

4. What would make it easier for your neighbors to make these changes? Do you need any materials or tools?

5. Follow through and take action. We can't wait to hear about what you have accomplished.

Return home and report your findings using the [SUBMIT FINDINGS](#) button.