
Stormwater Management Policy

Policy Statement:

This policy addresses responsible stormwater management and the regulatory requirements and measures that must be adhered to. Stormwater management is the process of controlling rainwater runoff (stormwater) to prevent pollution including the proper disposal of waste materials to ensure they do not enter storm drains and contaminate waterways. It includes planning for runoff; maintaining stormwater systems; and regulating the collection, storage, and movement of stormwater. Sustainable stormwater management focuses on reducing runoff, eliminating or minimizing the introduction of pollutants and waste into stormwater and the water supply, and improving water quality.

The federal Clean Water Act and the New Jersey Water Pollution Control Act are the primary and most significant water pollution control legislation which are implemented and enforced by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The discharge and introduction of pollutants into waterways or groundwater is illegal and not in compliance with NJDEP regulations, which can result in fines and penalties if not adhered to.

Reason for Policy:

To inform the Bergen Community College (the College) community about proper stormwater management practices and compliance with NJDEP regulations as outlined in the College's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Who Should Read This Policy

All students, faculty, and staff

Definitions:

- A. **Stormwater** - Water that is generated from rain and melted snow which flow over land or impervious surfaces such as paved streets, parking lots, walkways, and building rooftops which is unable to soak into the ground.
- B. **Clean Water Act (CWA)** - The primary federal law originally passed in 1948 as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which governs water pollution. The CWA's objective is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters, and recognizes the responsibilities of the states in addressing pollution and aiding states to do so. It provides the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the nation's waters and regulating quality standards for surface waters.
- C. **New Jersey Water Pollution Control Act** – A law enacted in 1977 which consists of legislative and regulatory measures intended to limit the number of harmful substances found in the state's lakes, rivers, and groundwater.
- D. **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** – A system of catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, and storm drains that collect and convey stormwater runoff from a developed area.

- E. **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)** - A written document that outlines the steps a facility will take to prevent pollutants from entering waterways through stormwater runoff, identifying potential pollution sources, and detailing best management practices and control measures to be implemented to minimize pollutant discharges.
- F. **Industrial Waste** – Non-domestic waste usually resulting from industrial activities which includes solid waste, liquid waste, and gas waste.
- G. **Tier A Municipality** – As of January 1, 2023, all municipalities in New Jersey are classified as Tier A Municipalities. Tier A is defined under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-25.3(a)(1).

The Policy:

Bergen Community College is a Tier A municipality and is committed to preventing stormwater pollution through responsible waste management practices and adhering to all environmental laws and regulations as documented in the SWPPP. The College adheres to all requirements of the Clean Water Act, New Jersey Water Pollution Control Act, and all other federal, state, county, and municipality water pollution regulations. This policy is strictly focused on stormwater, not wastewater. As stormwater runoff travels, it picks up pollutants which are transported to water bodies via storm sewer systems. Because stormwater is not treated, it has the potential to harm or destroy wildlife and their habitat and contaminate drinking water sources. All members of the College community and visitors are expected to facilitate actions that mitigate the risk of illicit discharge and runoff pollution in the following ways.

The College operates under the NJDEP Public Complex Stormwater General Permit which can be found here: [Stormwater General Permit: NJG0149802](#)

This permit applies specifically to MS4 Complexes. To be compliant with this permit the College maintains a SWPPP located here: [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan](#)

Bergen Community College is dedicated to following best practices in its daily operations to manage and keep pollutants out of the College's stormwater systems. Future updates and additional information can be found on the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) webpage.

1. **Stormwater Ordinances:** For the most complete and up to date information, the following Borough of Paramus Stormwater Ordinances can be found [here](#) :
 - a. Pet Waste
 - b. Wildlife Feeding
 - c. Litter Control
 - d. Improper Disposal of Waste
 - e. Containerized Yard Waste
 - f. Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting
 - g. Illicit Connection Ordinance
 - h. Privately Owned Salt Storage
 - i. Tree Removal
2. **Good Housekeeping:** The following housekeeping actions are followed by the College and should be adhered to by all constituents as applicable.
 - a. **Herbicides:** The College does not maintain and store herbicides on its campus grounds. Since the Bergen County Parks Department provides landscaping services, such chemicals are stored at Bergen County Parks Department facilities. Applications of such chemicals on campus grounds and shrubbery are in accordance with required treatments and specifications.
 - b. **Chemical Storage:** Any cleaning agents/chemicals used are maintained within the College's building facilities, if leaked, would be contained and not migrate into storm sewer systems. Pouring anything into stormwater drains is strictly prohibited.

- c. Petroleum Powered Equipment: All college owned equipment is to be fueled, repaired and maintained according to best management practices to eliminate sources of petroleum from washing into the stormwater system. All non-college owned equipment brought on College property should be similarly maintained by the owner. Washing of petroleum powered equipment is strictly prohibited onsite in areas where water runoff leads to storm drains. Inoperable equipment is to be properly disposed of and not stored onsite.
- d. Vegetative Waste Management: Vegetative waste is to be removed from the grounds upon generation by Bergen County or other qualified vendors, preventing clippings and trimmings from washing into our stormwater management system.
- e. Residual Waste Management: Street sweepings, construction and demolition debris and tires are not kept onsite and will be disposed of upon generation.
- f. Roadside Erosion Control: Vegetation is kept and maintained along the roadside to provide stabilization. Routine erosion inspections are to be performed.
- g. Outdoor Refuse Containers and Dumpsters: All litter should be placed within the provided covered/leak proof trash cans. All dumpsters are to remain covered when not being actively filled.

3. Construction Site Runoff:

- a. For stormwater runoff related to any construction site activities that take place on campus grounds, the College will obtain a Construction Activity Stormwater General Permit and will meet all required standards for post construction stormwater management.

4. Public Education and Outreach

- a. The College is responsible for providing and reporting a minimum amount of public education and outreach annually as listed in Attachment A of its Stormwater Discharge General Permit. Events are to be advertised in the Bergen Daily, on the Bergen events page on the College website, and/or posted around the College.

5. Compliance

- a. The College will conduct routine inspections and stormwater monitoring to ensure compliance with this policy and with federal, state, county and municipality laws and regulations.
- b. Training is to be provided to personnel involved in and responsible for stormwater management and control, and educational programming is to be provided to the College community to promote awareness and compliance with stormwater pollution prevention practices.
- c. The Environmental Health and Safety Office, reporting under the Facilities Department, will maintain the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, obtain and maintain all required permits, and collaborate with local environmental agencies.

6. Enforcement

- a. The following sanctions will be imposed on anyone in violation of this policy as follows:
 - i. Any College student who is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to official warning, disciplinary probation, suspension, expulsion, or other sanctions in accordance with the College's Student Code of Conduct.

- ii. Any College faculty, staff member, or agent who is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to suspension, demotion, termination, or other disciplinary action in accordance with the Employee Code of Conduct, applicable New Jersey statutes, and relevant contracts or agreements.
- iii. Any other person who has entered into a contract or agreement with the College to provide equipment, materials, supplies, or services on the College's property, and who is found to be in violation of this policy, will be subject to sanctions in accordance with the contract or agreement.
- iv. Any visitor, guest, or other person who is not identified above, and who is found to be in violation of this policy, is subject to removal from the College's property. If the person refuses to leave after being asked to do so, they may be subject to prosecution for criminal trespass under N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3.

Compliance with this policy is essential in supporting the College's environmental stewardship efforts and maintaining compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Related Documents/Policies:

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
NJDEP Public Complex Stormwater General Permit

Policy History: (adopted/amended)

Adopted: June 16, 2026
Amended:
Reviewed: