



Stormwater MS4 Permit

Quick Facts and Takeaways

- This is an **unfunded federal mandate**.
- If we don't comply, it constitutes a violation of the 1973 Clean Water Act and we face fines of **\$2,500 - \$37,500 per day**. If our non-compliance is found to be purposeful, we could face criminal penalties.
- Franklin sued the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) along with a coalition of environmental advocates and home builder and developer groups. The Town was able to delay the permit start date and receive credit for the work the Town has done in the past. Both are significant victories.
- The Town is required under federal law to begin to implement a long-term 20 year mitigation plan. The average cost per resident is \$84 per year. All money raised is for local investment. No money goes to the state or federal government.
- What do I get for my money?
 - Results in improved drinking water, less pollution.
 - The Town is able to invest more in improving existing infrastructure, such as roads, catch basins, drainage and street sweeping.
 - Annual curbside leaf pickup will be a new program.
- A utility is the most equitable way to distribute the cost; fee is based on impervious area per parcel.
- Tax exempt entities like colleges, the Commonwealth, the federal government and religious organizations have to contribute too.
- Credits (abatements) are available for businesses and residents.
- 20 other Towns have established utilities, including Bellingham and Millis.