



WHAT IS IT?

Today, many communities face various problems due to unsustainable development patterns. When large buildings, impervious surfaces, and rural sprawl occur at a regional level, natural resources and quality of life can be strained.

Sustainable building is the act of designing and building with the environment in mind; using materials from the region, reducing surface runoff from individual properties and creating energy efficient homes and communities. Sustainable building strategies often increase property values and do not always have higher upfront costs.



Maintaining trees and shrubbery on a property can provide privacy while reducing stormwater runoff



Large buildings, paved surfaces and improperly installed drains all contribute to pollution in the lake and streams of the watershed

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Contributing to sustainable development can pay off for you and the community, whether you are building a new home or business, or just making improvements to your property. Sustainable building can reduce maintenance and utility costs while reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff, bank erosion and soil degradation on the natural resources and public infrastructure of the community.

By making sure that planners and local officials include flexibility for energy efficient and environmentally sensitive building techniques in regulations and comprehensive plans, residents can ensure that sustainable building remains a smart and efficient option.

POLICY OPTIONS

Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff can be reduced by regulating the form and location of new buildings during the Site Plan Review process.

Policies can be established to incentivize or require the use of stormwater management techniques in new construction.

Information about small scale stormwater management techniques should be provided to area residents.

Septic and KWIC

KWIC was established by local municipalities to monitor water quality and septic system regulations throughout the watershed.

Continuing to work with KWIC will help to ensure that septic systems, as well as sewage treatment systems, are functioning appropriately.

Annual septic and sewage treatment inspections by KWIC will promote long term water quality for all.

Green Building Strategies

Green Building techniques are sometimes discouraged by zoning and site plan regulations, especially solar panels and wind turbines, to the detriment of the community and individual property owners.

Environmentally conscious construction and retrofitting of existing buildings should be encouraged by local regulations, including the use of native plants in landscaping.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sustainable Building

Learn more about what sustainable building is and how you can get involved by visiting this website:

Information about sustainable building from the EPA - <http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/>

Stormwater Management

Learn more about how stormwater runoff can negatively impact the watershed and how you and your municipality can better manage runoff by visiting these websites:

Guide to Stormwater Runoff Risks from the EPA -

www.epa.gov/greeningepa/stormwater/

Stormwater management for your home from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management -

www.in.gov/idem/nps/3567.htm

Septic and KWIC

Learn more about KWIC, how they can help maintain septic and sewage treatment systems and why it matters by visiting these websites:

History of KWIC from the Keuka Lake Association - www.keukalakeassociation.org/post.php?id=49

Information about Combined Sewer Risks from the EPA - water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/cso/index.cfm

“Dealing with Septic System Impacts” from the Center for Watershed Protection -

www.cwp.org/online-watershed-library/cat_view/63-research/71-pollutants-and-pollutant-sources

Green Building

Learn more about green building techniques and how zoning and regulations can either deter or promote these techniques by visiting these websites:

Green Building resources from the EPA - www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/pubs/about.htm

Zoning and sustainable development from the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute - http://sustainability.asu.edu/docs/SCN/may10_valleywide/Sustainable_Code_Intro_AZ0510.pdf

Watershed Information

G/FLRPC Keuka Lake Watershed Planning Guide - www.gflrpc.org/Publications/Keuka/Plan/Guide/LandUseGuide.pdf

Watershed Plans: Protecting and Restoring Water Quality from NYS Dept. of State -

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTtqfVN3MfQ

Watershed information from the EPA - <http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/index.cfm>

Canandaigua Lake Report - www.fllt.org/linkfiles/cndgareport.pdf

Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan - www.gflrpc.org/Publications/SenecaLakeWMP.htm

For more information, or to fill out our survey, visit www.sustainablekeuka.net

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