

How is Windham meeting these Clean Water Act requirements?

The Town of Windham is working hard to comply with stormwater permit requirements. Responsibilities of departments within Windham are summarized below.

Public Works

Primary Point of Contact: Gretchen Anderson, *Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator*
Douglas Fortier, *Director*

- Inspects and maintains all municipal stormwater infrastructure.
- Follows pollution prevention measures at the public works garage to ensure that municipal operations at these facilities do not pollute water resources.
- Uses proper erosion and sedimentation control measures during construction and maintenance.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and works with Town departments to eliminate these sources.
- Ensures staff are trained in proper procedures for minimizing pollution, including but not limited to: chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up, and use of erosion control measures.
- Coordinates implementation of Windham’s Stormwater Management Plan through coordination with all municipal departments and serves as the stormwater program point of contact (POC) with DEP.

The **Interlocal Stormwater Working Group (ISWG)** is comprised of 14 regulated communities and 2 nested MS4s in the Greater Portland and Saco Bay areas (see map on Page 2). ISWG is coordinated by Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District and works cooperatively to meet the permit’s education requirements (steps 1 & 2) for all ISWG members.

Planning

Primary Point of Contact: Amanda Lessard, *Planner*

- Coordinates review of site plans for proper erosion and sedimentation control practices to ensure:
 - Construction projects include stormwater control measures (SCMs) to avoid polluting water resources; and
 - Post-construction stormwater management controls are incorporated into development designs to help keep untreated runoff from entering Windham’s stormwater infrastructure.
- Encourages developers to use Low Impact Development, which minimizes environmental impact from development.
- References Windham’s non-stormwater ordinance when needed
- Requires that inspections occur on larger projects to ensure construction and post-construction systems are designed to collect and treat stormwater on public and private property.

GIS

Primary Point of Contact: Elisa Trepanier, *Assessor/GIS Coordinator*

- Creates and maintains up-to-date maps of all municipal stormwater infrastructure.

Code Enforcement

Primary Point of Contact: Christopher Hanson, *Director of Code Enforcement*

- Inspects small-scale (e.g. single family homes) construction projects (on both public and private property) to ensure proper erosion and sedimentation control practices are being used and pollutants are not entering the Town’s MS4.
- Identifies pollution sources within the community, notifies Windham’s MS4 POC with DEP, and works to eliminate these sources.

Buildings and Grounds

Primary Point of Contact: Brian Morin, *Supervisor*

- Follows operation and maintenance plan for their facility to ensure activities do not pollute water resources.
- Ensures staff are trained to minimize polluted runoff from municipal facilities.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and notifies Windham’s MS4 POC with DEP.

Public Safety

Primary Points of Contact: Chief Kevin Schofield, *Police*; Chief Brent Libby, *Fire*

- Follows operation and maintenance plans for their facilities to ensure activities do not pollute water resources.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and notifies Windham’s MS4 POC with DEP.
- Ensures staff are trained for minimizing stormwater pollution.

DEP’s Point of Contact for Windham’s MS4 Permit is Gretchen Anderson, Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator





Presumpscot River

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation (rain or melted snow) that flows over land. Stormwater can pick up pollutants as it runs off the land into lakes, streams, rivers, and the ocean; this is called polluted runoff. Storm drains collect runoff and carries it without treatment directly into water bodies. Polluted runoff affects drinking water, human health, wildlife, and property values.

What are common stormwater pollutants?



- Soil, sand, and sediments** cloud the water and smother wildlife habitat.
- Chemicals** (fertilizer, weed & bug killers (pesticides), vehicle fluids, coal tar pavement sealers, etc.), are carried with runoff and can be toxic to wildlife.
- Pet waste** contains bacteria that can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, and may contribute to beach closures.
- Salt**, which is spread on roads, sidewalks, and parking lots to melt snow and ice, dissolves in water or snowmelt. Once salt gets into our water it cannot be removed. Salt in our fresh waterways can be toxic to wildlife.
- Debris**, like cigarette butts and other forms of litter, is unsightly and harms wildlife.

What is an MS4?

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM, or MS4, means a stormwater system that is separated from sanitary sewer systems. The storm sewer system includes roads, curbs and gutters, ditches, storm drains, outfalls, and pipes connecting these features.

Your municipality has a **CLEAN WATER ACT PERMIT** that is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that allows you to discharge runoff into water bodies if measures are taken to minimize pollution from your storm sewer system and municipal facilities and operations. This permit is referred to as the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) MS4 Permit.



Under the Federal CLEAN WATER ACT, some municipalities must have a permit that allows them to direct stormwater to water bodies in their communities, provided that specific steps are taken to minimize pollution.

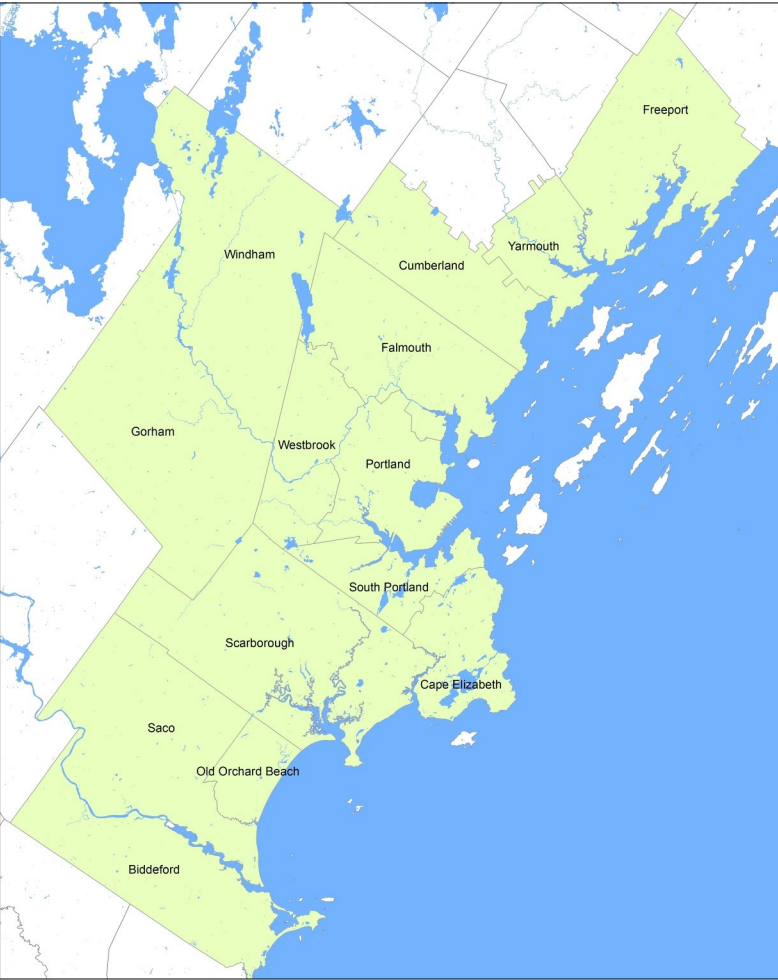
IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE STEPS IS MANDATORY

if you are a regulated municipality.

Who is regulated, and what does it mean for Windham?

Municipalities, transportation agencies, public universities, prisons, military bases, and other state and federal facilities are subject to MEPDES regulation.

Regulated municipalities are determined by population density and proximity to population density, based on US Census Bureau data. The regulated municipalities in Greater Portland and Saco areas are shown on the map to the right.



As a regulated community, you are subject to:

- Full compliance with permit requirements, including six minimum steps outlined in the permit (see opposite page).
- Additional costs for operations, permitting, capital improvements, etc. compared to non-regulated municipalities.
- Heightened scrutiny from Maine DEP, EPA, and environmental or citizen action groups.
- Identification and improvement of your priority water body. Windham's priority water body is the Pleasant River.

What are the minimum steps required in the MS4 Permit?

- 1 Educate the public and municipal staff and officials about polluted runoff and how to reduce pollution.
- 2 Provide the public an opportunity to participate in Windham's stormwater program.
- 3 Identify and eliminate illegal sewer connections, dumping into storm drains, and other sources of pollution. Carry out long-term maintenance and mapping of all stormwater infrastructure.
- 4 Ensure that construction on both public and private property does not impact water resources.
- 5 Implement new development and redevelopment of stormwater ordinances. Encourage developers to utilize techniques to reduce the impact of development on water resources.
- 6 Prevent pollution from municipal operations and facilities. Educate municipal staff about practices to reduce polluted runoff.

In addition to these minimum steps, Windham is required to protect and take steps to restore polluted water bodies in the municipality.



Sebago Lake

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.

A municipality-wide effort is needed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act permit.

To meet these requirements, Windham must adopt increased stormwater standards applicable to:

- New development, redevelopment, and construction;
- Long-term maintenance and inspection of stormwater infrastructure;
- Preventing pollution from all municipal operations and facilities;
- Improving polluted water bodies within your municipality, with priority given to the Pleasant River; and
- Raising awareness of stormwater, specifically the appropriate practices that should be used, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis to reduce polluted runoff.

PLEASANT RIVER

The Pleasant River, a tributary of the Presumpscot River, is Windham's priority water body. The River is impaired, which means pollution levels make it difficult for stream life to survive. Windham has worked with partners to survey the Pleasant River to identify pollution sources, develop a plan to improve the River, and address sites that contribute pollution to the River. The Town is required to continue efforts to improve the Pleasant River.



Pleasant River