

# Equity & Water

Achieving More Equitable Water Rates and  
Incentivizing Green Infrastructure in NYC



## S.W.I.M. Coalition

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters: utilizing  
stormwater as a resource, not a waste!

Jaime Stein, Chair S.W.I.M. Coalition Steering Committee  
GreenHomeNYC Monthly Forum  
May 20<sup>th</sup> , 2015



# S.W.I.M. Coalition

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters: utilizing stormwater as a resource, not a waste!

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (S.W.I.M.) is a coalition of 70 member organizations dedicated to ensuring swimmable and fishable waters around New York City through natural, sustainable stormwater management practices - Green Infrastructure - in our neighborhoods.







S.W.I.M. members endorse a truly sustainable view of watershed management; one that restores ecological systems, creates local economic opportunities and equitably distributes the benefits of Green Infrastructure in NYC.

S.W.I.M. Coalition members are a diverse group of organizations and individuals including architects, engineers, boaters, scientists, youth and community development groups, environmental education and preservation organizations, recreational water users, and citywide, regional and national environmental organizations, and educational institutions.

**Our Platform:** Effect Change through Policy, Education, and Outreach.

**Our Focus:** Green Infrastructure, Combined Sewer Overflows, Sustainable Stormwater Management, Water Quality Standards.

# S.W.I.M. Coalition Accomplishments

SWIM Mission	Accomplished?	Plan / Action
Legislation requiring multi-agency, citywide watershed planning		LL5 of 2008
Collaboration among stakeholders & City Agencies		Minds in the Gutter
Green Infrastructure in CSO Consent Order		Advocacy Campaign
Involve the public		Consent Order / GI Stakeholder Committee
Incentives for green infrastructure		Green Roof Tax Abatement
Green building code		Detention requirement
Public Notification		Newtown Creek Pilot

# S.W.I.M. Strategic Planning Areas of Focus



# Seeking Mayoral Administration Support

	 High PriorityLow Priority		
The creation of a dedicated funding mechanism for stormwater management	29	4	1
Increased funding for green infrastructure maintenance	28	6	0
Green infrastructure investment to help the city to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate	28	7	0
A transparent process for stormwater policy-making and implementation that meaningfully involves all affected communities	27	6	1
An equitable distribution of green infrastructure	21	10	3
Other	6	2	0

# OneNYC: Equity in Water Management

“ In order to balance the goals of investment and equity going forward, DEP will continue to develop rates that support policy goals, and will invest in the technology to support innovative fee structures. The City will update the water and wastewater billing system, and evaluate its financial framework to ensure we have a sustainable financial model.”

OneNYC pp. 200-01, 2015



# Water Board Raises Rates 2.97%



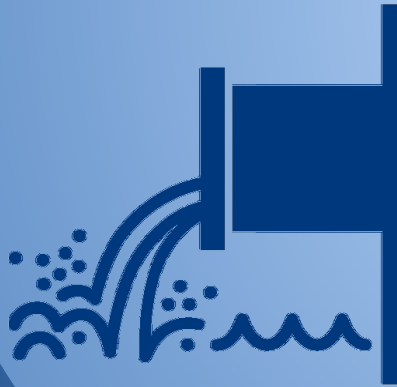
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb-S7XdmEul&list=PLcLNnQfI92DdFRGxTsGhPDhrcGel-iZAW&index=1>

# Equitable NYC Water Rate Structure

## Recommendations from S.W.I.M. Coalition:

[www.swimmablenyc.info](http://www.swimmablenyc.info)

Improve the fairness of water and sewer rates with key changes to DEP's rate structure that would incentivize Green Infrastructure retrofits and water conservation, reduce overall capital and operating costs for DEP, help improve water quality, and mitigate flooding.



**Break out DEP's stormwater revenue needs**



**Adopt tiered water/sewer rates**



**Allow discounts for green infrastructure**