

GCSA Goals:

- Provide employee training on a variety of topics, including pollution control, resources, regulatory issues, and permit compliance.
- Assist members with preparation and updating of stormwater maps.
- Prepare regional and local maps of and technical data about 303(d) impaired and TMDL waterbodies within GCSA areas.
- Provide time-sensitive updates on topical issues of concern via fact sheets, emails and news bulletins.
- Support local city councils and county commissions with timely information about the regulatory stormwater program and GCSA.
- Provide regional public education assistance, including GCSA website, brochures, and outreach to professional organizations.
- Conduct and assist with regional water quality sampling programs and 303(d) / TMDL studies.
- Host workshops and conferences on stormwater issues to support GCSA Members.

Additional Resources

Visit the **Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)** website listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other pollution reduction strategies.



Contact Information For:

Local stormwater programs, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

State Stormwater regulatory program, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100, or visit the DEQ web site at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/stormwater/>

INCOG's GCSA program, including membership and resources for controlling local pollution, contact INCOG's Environmental and Energy Planning Division at (918) 584-7526 or email at stormwater@incog.org.

General information about water quality within the INCOG area, visit the Environmental & Energy Planning webpage linked at www.incog.org.

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Green Country Stormwater Alliance



GCSA



A Closer Look at INCOG's:

Green Country Stormwater Alliance



History - Who We Are

In 1999, EPA finalized new "Phase II" stormwater regulations that would require permits on stormwater discharges from thousands of cities and counties across the nation. Most of these new permittees had populations under 20,000.



INCOG's member cities and counties listed in these new EPA "Phase II" regulations requested help from INCOG in understanding the new EPA mandates and to look for possible assistance from INCOG in meeting these new requirements.

INCOG began a comprehensive suite of support services using EPA grants to assist its membership. Eventually additional permitted cities joined in what became INCOG's **Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)**.

Now that grant funding is no longer available, INCOG's GCSA program is self-sustaining by membership dues. With each Fiscal Year cycle, GCSA membership represents about half of all Phase II stormwater permittees in Oklahoma. Contact INCOG to learn more about GCSA and how to become a member.

INCOG Services to GCSA

From 1999 to 2005, INCOG developed strategies and resources to help Phase II stormwater permittees obtain initial permit coverage, define local program activities, prepare documents, and jump-start public education programs.

Since 2005, INCOG has added the more technically difficult GCSA support tasks of providing resources and information on the policy and regulatory issues relating to permit compliance. INCOG also conducts and compiles data from water quality studies in its service area that directly benefits its GCSA Members. Principal areas of GCSA assistance are:

- Mapping and Data Services
- Water Quality Sampling Data & Methods
- Stormwater Management Program Support
- Annual Report Requirements and Content
- Program Evaluations by DEQ
- Employee Training on Technical Issues
- Researching Regulatory Issues
- Hosting Workshops & Conferences
- Representing GCSA on State Work Groups
- General Permit Revision Committees
- Regional Public Education Programs
- Technical Research and Guidance

Why GCSA Is Important

- Frequent changes in **EPA policies and regulations** and in State General Permits require constant vigilance.
- New **technically difficult initiatives** such as Low Impact Development (LID) and BMP Effectiveness Assessments must be implemented by permittees.
- **Regional programs** such as Employee Training and Public Education are cost-effective and more efficient.
- **Technical resources** are not readily available for smaller cities, such as for water quality, sampling methods, proper handling of hazardous chemicals, etc.
- **Changes in city staff and Councils** require refreshing of knowledge about the stormwater program.



GreenCountryStormwaterAlliance
www.stormwaterok.net

This brochure describes the benefits of GCSA membership, including the sharing of resources and having comprehensive technical assistance from INCOG. Contact INCOG for more information about GCSA at (918) 584-7526 or by email at stormwater@incog.org.