

# BMP Project Fact Sheet

## Clark Green Car Wash

### Project Overview:

The Township of Clark's Green Car Wash is located on Westfield Ave in the public works yard. Youth-led car wash fundraiser events used to be held next door at Arthur L. Johnson High School. Dirty car wash runoff went directly into the stormdrain and out to Clark Reservoir (part of the Rahway River watershed).

### Design Considerations:

In 2011, a 5,000 gallon cistern was installed which harvests stormwater from the roof of the 4,900 ft<sup>2</sup> public works building. A booster pump helps wash cars and public works vehicles. A concrete swale discharges dirty car wash runoff to a 360 ft<sup>2</sup> rain garden. Due to the slow draining clay soils, the rain garden was installed with a 4" perforated underdrain which moves excess water out of the garden.

### Water Quality and Quantity Benefits:

The car wash project will not only reduce stormwater runoff from the public works building, but also demonstrates stormwater re-use, conservation, and a unique solution to a wide-spread problem: pollutants generated from car wash runoff. A Rutgers Cooperative Extension study showed that rain gardens can effectively reduce surfactants from car wash runoff by close to 90%.

### Cost:

Cost of cistern with materials, installation, and gutter work was \$12,000.00. Cost of the rain garden was \$1,800 not including design and labor.

Project partners include Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, Township of Clark, and Arthur L. Johnson High School. Details at [www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu)



### Did you know...

*Car wash events are now an educational opportunity for students, parents, and drivers who have their cars washed to learn about watershed protection, rainwater harvesting, and rain gardens.*

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