



Sixth Annual Green Infrastructure Conference

November 14, 2017 | 12:30 – 5:30 PM ET

Ballard Spahr
1735 Market Street, 48th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

12:30 PM: Registration and Lunch

1:00 PM: Panel – Harvey, Irma, and Sandy: Could Fuller Embrace of Green Infrastructure in Urban Planning Save Lives and Property?

Could better urban planning incorporating green infrastructure have ameliorated damage from recent super storms? Could green infrastructure serve to blunt, in part, impacts from sea-level rise? These questions have surfaced in the wake of the damage suffered by Southeast Texas as a result of Hurricane Harvey, where the lack of urban planning of any kind may have multiplied the impacts. Similar critiques have surfaced for the results seen in Miami during and after Hurricane Irma, and in the New York area following Hurricane Sandy. This panel will focus on the use of green infrastructure as a planning tool to bolster the resiliency of our major urban areas.

- Harry Weiss, Partner, Ballard Spahr
- Marc Cammarata, P.E., Director of the Office of Watersheds, Philadelphia Water Department
- Mark T. Celoni, P.E., Vice President, Pennoni
- William Kenworthy, Principal, Regional Leader of Planning, HOK
- Anna Shipp, Executive Director, Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia

2:00 PM: Panel – Emerging Legal Obligations to Build Resilience to Adapt to Climate Disruption

Emerging case law suggests that courts may impose legal obligations to anticipate the implications of climate disruption and to build resilience against increased storminess and flooding into development. A district court in Massachusetts denied a motion to dismiss a citizen suit contending that a company's emergency response plans were flawed due to their failure to account for the impacts of climate disruption. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decisions in *PEDF v. Commonwealth* and *Robinson Township v. Commonwealth* imposing a duty on Pennsylvania and its municipalities to act as trustees for the environment could compel this result in Pennsylvania. Green infrastructure is a cost effective tool to build this resilience.

- Robert B. McKinstry, Jr., Senior Counsel, Ballard Spahr
- Wendi Goldsmith, Northeast Region Director, Center for Urban Watershed Renewal
- Amy Sinden, Professor, Temple University Beasley School of Law



3:15 PM: Refreshment Break

3:30 PM: Panel – Reducing Green Infrastructure Costs through Regional Storm Water Management

Designing and implementing a regional approach to sustainable storm water management and compliance can be a challenge to any local government. The potential savings in terms of cost and time can be significant for those local governments who collaborate with federal and state regulators and their watershed municipal neighbors to incorporate sound green infrastructure facilities. This panel will explore successful regional design and implementation strategies now being achieved in certain areas of the Commonwealth. Attendees will learn practical advice to assist municipalities and their advisors in achieving their compliance goals—while saving significant costs—through a regional approach. We will discuss regional green infrastructure design, funding and financing strategies, and the implementation of program policies to achieve compliance at reasonable cost.

- William C. Rhodes, Partner, Ballard Spahr
- Adrienne Vicari, Financial Services Practice Leader, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
- Michael D. Bedrin, Regional Director, PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Shannon G. Gority, P.E., Chief Executive Officer, Capital Region Water

Closing Remarks: Caitlin McCarthy, Environmental Law Institute

4:30 PM: Cocktail Reception in Philadelphia