

Chris Weiss

From: Chris Weiss [cweiss@dcen.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 10:49 AM
To: cweiss@dcen.net; 'Chris Weiss'
Subject: DCEN ANNOUNCEMENTS: DCEN LUNCHEON on MS4 Permit (12th) & GREEN BUDGET LOBBY DAY (10th)!



DCEN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

I am hoping you can participate in some of our upcoming events:

- **GREEN BUDGET LOBBY DAY:** Monday, May 10, 2010 @ 9:00 – 10:30 AM @ DC Council, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Near Metro Center Station. – Join other DC environmentalists as we deliver our coalition budget letter asking the Council to take care of important environmental programs as they develop our FY2011 Budget.
- **DCEN LUNCHEON on NEW STORMWATER PERMIT:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 @ Noon – 1:30 PM @ Global Green USA (NEW offices of Friends of the Earth), 1100 15th Street NW, 11th Floor. Near Farragut North & McPherson Square Metro Stations.

See more information below...and spread the word!

Chris Weiss
Director
DC Environmental Network

GREEN BUDGET LOBBY DAY

Almost 40 environmental, labor, human service and business organizations have signed a coalition letter asking the DC Council to restore extensive and damaging cuts to environmental programs that are part of Mayor Fenty's proposed FY2011 Budget.

Some of the cuts include (partial):

- \$10.5 million raided from the DC Sustainable Energy Utility, money that could be used to create jobs, weatherization programs, renewable energy installations and energy efficiency improvements;
- \$1 million raided from funds to be used to subsidize the cost of District residents solar installations in our communities;
- \$2.6 million raided from the Anacostia Cleanup Fund to pay for street sweeping programs;
- and insufficient funding to the tune of over \$20 million for Metro, Low Income Energy Assistance, tree planting and programs to help protect District residents from lead exposure.

We are hoping our coordinated effort reminds the Council that protection of the environment can no longer be considered a luxury but must be treated as a priority that may very well be the key to economic success and prosperity.

We will be delivering our letter to all 13 Councilmember's and having a brief conversation with staff and/or members.

DATE: Monday, May 10, 2010

TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 AM

PLACE: John A. Wilson Building (District of Columbia Council), 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW near the Metro Center metro station. We will be meeting in front of the stairway just inside the Pennsylvania Street entrance.

MUST RSVP TO: cweiss@dce.net

Please remember to bring a picture ID to get in the building!

For more information and copy of our Joint Budget Letter contact Chris Weiss at 202-518-8782.

The DC Environmental Network Invites All Metro-Based Environmentalists to a BROWN BAG LUNCHEON:

EPA's New MS4 (Stormwater) Permit: Will it Help Restore the Anacostia River, Potomac River & Rock Creek?

featuring:

- Cori Lombard, Legal Fellow, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Jennifer Chavez, Staff Attorney, Earthjustice
- Diane Cameron, Conservation Program Director, Audubon Naturalist Society
- Chris Weiss, Director, DC Environmental Network (moderator)

Our region suffers from some of the dirtiest urban rivers in the country cutting a path right through the center of our communities. After almost any rain, large quantities of polluted stormwater carry bacteria, trash and toxics into our rivers making them unsafe for fishing and swimming.

Polluted stormwater also makes its way into our sewage system, creating overflows that dump untreated raw sewage directly into our rivers. Every five years the District of Columbia and region have an opportunity to make real, measurable progress cleaning up the Anacostia River, Potomac River and Rock Creek. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues a permit that requires the District of Columbia to come up with a plan to reduce the amount of polluted stormwater that makes its way into our waterways.

EPA has just issued a new "DRAFT" stormwater (MS4) permit for the public to review. It is a good start, but needs to be strengthened to map out a new stormwater management plan that restores our waters. A good permit from EPA will help bring about meaningful, measurable District strategies to reduce the amount of polluted stormwater. Planting trees, building green roofs and rain gardens and other measures help absorb the rain before it goes into the storm drains, and are just some of the many good approaches that could be in a storm water management plan. We call this "green infrastructure."

The good news is that green infrastructure is an economic driver that can create new jobs for residents during these hard times. Green infrastructure can also help build a vibrant waterfront that will promote livable, walkable, healthy neighborhoods on both sides of the river. New jobs and healthy communities make this a win-win situation. Green infrastructure can also help the District be a leading green city and help District of Columbia Mayor Fenty reach his stated goals of 40% green roof and tree canopy coverage.

Join us as our panel discusses what needs to be done to make sure the District has a strong MS4 (Stormwater Permit). After our panel makes brief presentations we will open up the meeting to questions and comments.

DATE: Wednesday, May 12, 2010

TIME: 12:00 NOON to 1:30 PM

PLACE: Global Green USA (NEW offices of Friends of the Earth), 1100 15th Street NW, 11th Floor. Near Farragut North & McPherson Square Metro Stations

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More events coming soon! CW

DC Environmental Network

cweiss@dcen.net

202-421-7319



MailChimp