



 Sarasota County

Rain Check
– Please!



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program



Topics



Evolution



What is a Rain Check?



Goals & Objectives



Sarasota County

Our Team



Jen Rudolph

NEST Program
Coordinator



Holly Mathis

Supervisor,
Billing and Assessments

Evolution

1995

2022

2024



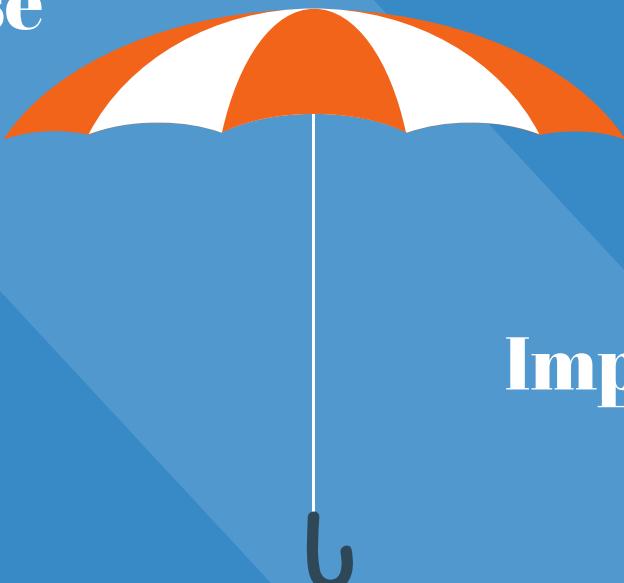
**Initial
Stormwater Assessment
Resolution**

**Amended
Stormwater Assessment
Resolution**

**Board approved the
Rain Check
Program**

Need for Change

3.56%
Population Increase



13.51%
**Impervious Area
Increase**



Need for Change

This resulted in a significant **increase** in **operating costs**

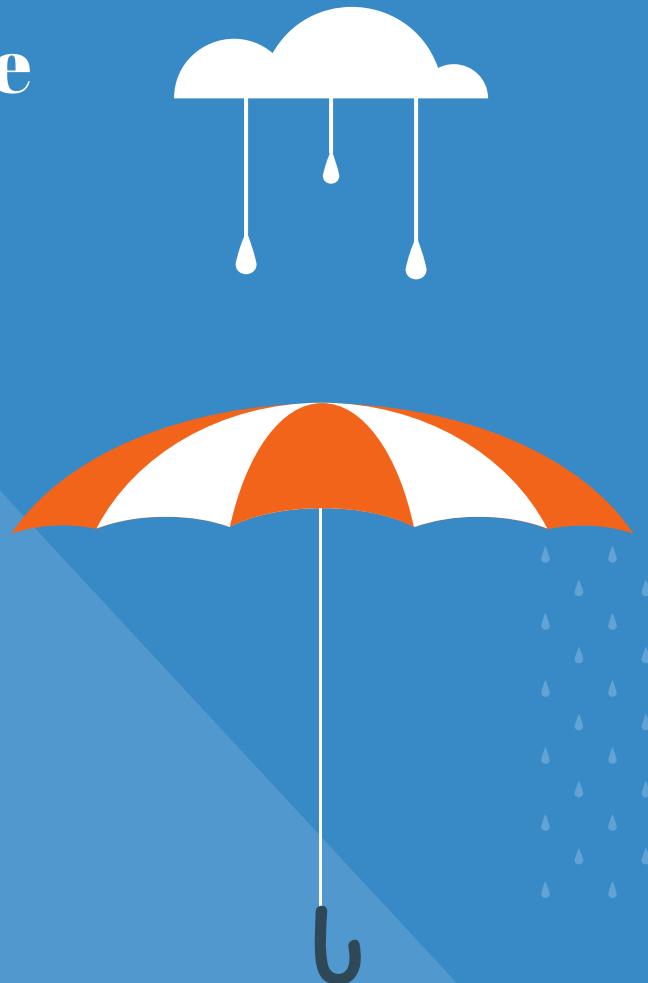


Stormwater Assessment rates had not changed since **2015**



Need for Change

**The Flood Mitigation Credit
Program gave property owners up
to an **82%** credit to the
Stormwater Assessment**



How do we change?

Outside consultant suggestions:

Change

Replace



Significant Outcomes



September 2022

**Sarasota County Board of Commissioners
approved the Amended and Restated Resolution**



Sarasota County



Significant Outcomes



The Resolution stated the **intent** to replace
the Flood Mitigation Credit Program with
an **Incentive Rebate Program**



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

Conversion Process

The Flood Mitigation Credit Program has been phased out by decreasing the credit by $1/3$ each year over a three - year period

Creation Process

Administration

- **Resolution**
- **Ordinance**

Program Documents

- **Rain Check Application**
- **Program Handbook**

Marketing

- **Logo**
- **Web Content**



Collaborative Process

Stormwater

Stormwater, NEST,
Business Administration



S

Office of Financial Management

Budget Management, Grant Administration, Policy and Compliance Unit



O

Office of the County Attorney

Administrative Law, Finance Law



A



C

Communications

Creative Services, Public Information and Community Outreach



C

Clerk of Court and County Comptroller

Treasury Management,
Accounts Payable



F

University of Florida

Partnered with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Office



The Rain Check program officially
launched on **January 1, 2025**



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

Benefits of the Rain Check Program

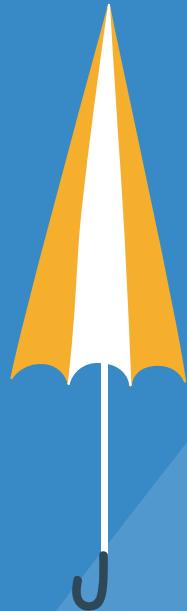


**Sarasota Audubon Society
Celery Fields Nature Center**





Economic Benefits



\$4,000,000

Environmental Benefits

Flood Mitigation

Improved Water Quality

Pollutant Prevention

Erosion Control

Habitat Protection



Siesta Key Beach, Sarasota County, Florida

Social Benefits



Public Education



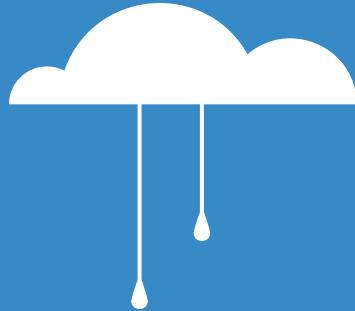
Environmental Stewardship



Sense of Community

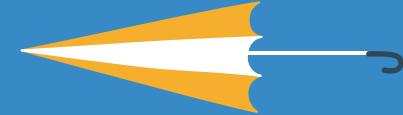
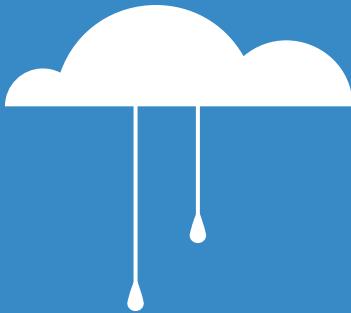


Sarasota County



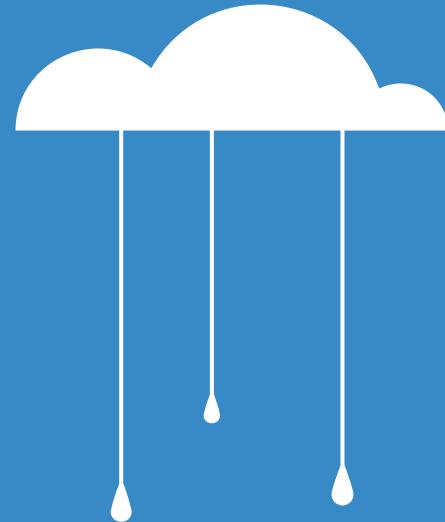
What is a "Rain Check"?

Rain Check is a program that provides property owners a **one-time incentive rebate** to install approved stormwater Best Management Practices (**BMPs**) on their property. Each property owner can receive a rebate for up to **2 BMPs**.



What is a BMP?

**Best Management Practices are
studied, proven, and effective
techniques of **reducing**
pollutants in stormwater runoff.**





BMP	Maximum Rebate Amount
Modified Downspout	Up to \$50
Bioswale	Up to \$500
Rain Garden	Up to \$500
Downspout Planter	Up to \$1,000
Impervious Replacement	Up to \$5,000 \$5 per square foot
Proposed Alternative BMP	Up to \$5,000

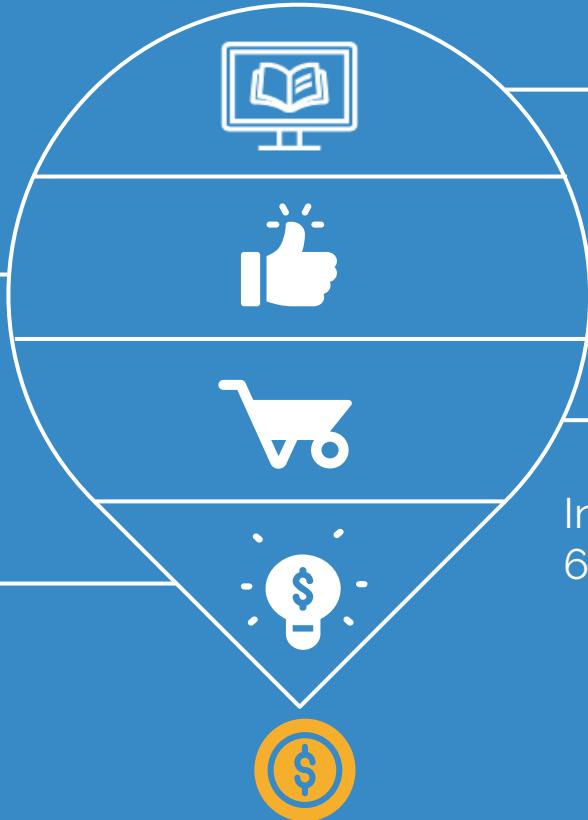
The Process

Inspect

The NEST Coordinator
will inspect the site

Request

After final site inspection,
request a rebate



Apply

Fill out an application online
at scgov.net/raincheck

Install

Install your project within
60 days of NTP

Unsure Where to Start?

What is RainCheck?

The “RainCheck ideology” is a nationwide movement to help communities take action to increase stormwater infiltration into the ground. The more the rain can soak in, the more we can improve water quality in creeks, rivers and ultimately the oceans. Improved water quality supports more healthy and diverse plants and wildlife, improved recreational areas, and many drivers of the local economy.

RainCheck is an incentive rebate program designed to encourage homeowners to install specialized small-scale Best Management Practices (BMPs) that improve water quality and increase stormwater infiltration, thus protecting our valuable water resources. Through the RainCheck program, Sarasota County will pay property owners up to a certain amount for eligible (tangible) items in the installation of select BMPs proven to have water quality and quantity benefits:

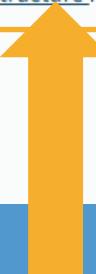
- Rain gardens and bioswales
- Downspout planter boxes
- Impervious Replacement
- Modified Downspouts

To learn more about the program and these approved BMPs, check out our [Green Infrastructure home page!](#)

Unsure where to start? Contact the NEST Program Coordinator at raincheck@scgov.net

Ready to apply? [Submit your application here!](#)

*previously installed BMPs are not eligible



Apply

[A-Z](#)[Government](#)[Community](#)[ADDRESS FINDER](#)[SEARCH](#)

PUBLIC WORKS

- Buchan Airport
- Flood Maps
- [+ Flood Protection](#)
- Program for Public Information
- [- Stormwater Environmental Utility](#)
- Stormwater Virtual Public Meetings
- Assessment and Rates
- Stormwater Non-Ad-Valorem
- Assessment Online Inquiry Form

RainCheck

[Government](#) » [Public Works](#) » [Stormwater Environmental Utility](#) »

RainCheck

Font Size: Small Medium Large [Share & Bookmark](#) [Print](#)



Applications accepted annually
from Oct. 1 through June 1.



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Ready to apply? Submit your application here!



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Application

Important Disclaimer

PLEASE NOTE – *

Work completed prior to receiving a Notice to Proceed form will not be eligible for a rebate.



Before applying, please read the [Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Handbook](#).

I confirm that I've read the Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Handbook. *

1. Applicant Information

Parcel Identification Number (PID) / Account Number *

This number is on the top right of your Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice, or can be found using the [Sarasota County Property Appraiser's Quick Search](#).

Is this property located within the Sarasota County Stormwater Service Assessment Areas? *

[Please verify here.](#)

Select

Submit

[Privacy Notice](#) | [Report Abuse](#)

Apply

2. Proposed BMP Installation

Indicate the BMP practices and their respective costs.

Maximum Rebate Amount (from Section III of Handbook):

Treatment Swales (Bioswales) - **Up to \$500.00**
Rain Gardens - **Up to \$500.00**
Modified Downspout - **Up to \$50.00**
Downspout Planter - **Up to \$100.00**
Impervious Replacement (driveways, sidewalks, etc.) - **\$5.00/sf up to \$5,000.00**
Other BMPs - **Up to \$5,000.00**

First BMP *

Treatment Swales (Bioswales) Rain Gardens
 Modified Downspout Downspout Planter
 Impervious Replacement (driveways, sidewalks, etc.) Other BMPs

Second BMP (if applicable)

Treatment Swales (Bioswales) Rain Gardens
 Modified Downspout Downspout Planter
 Impervious Replacement (driveways, sidewalks, etc.) Other BMPs

First BMP Description *

Briefly describe the first project you're planning to implement on your property.

Please attach photos of the project site(s) at the bottom of this application form.

3. Itemized Project Budget

Please use the [RainCheck Project Budget Template](#) to fill out a detailed, itemized budget for the proposed BMP(s).

Items should include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) **Rain Garden/Bioswale:**
 - Square feet of proposed area and location on the property
 - Container size, number, and species of native or Florida Friendly plants. A planting diagram is preferred but not necessary
 - Amount and type of soil amendments
- b) **Impervious Replacement:**
 - Square feet of proposed replacement
 - Technical specifications for project such as amount and type of aggregate for reservoirs & compacted areas
 - Length of gutters and downspouts to be installed
- c) **Modified Downspouts:**
 - Length of gutters
 - Gutter attachments
- d) **Downspout Planter:**
 - Planter specifications
 - Amount and type of soil
 - Container size, number, and species of native plants for installation
 - Directive gutters and downspout attachment

Attach files at the bottom of this application form.

4. Vendor Quotes (if applicable)

A proposed project expense of **\$3,000 or greater** will require three (3) vendor, merchant, or retailer quotes for like goods and services.

Include a copy of the vendor quotes for the project with this submittal.

Attach files at the bottom of this application form.

5. Rebate and Maintenance Commitment

By submitting this application, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to our [Rebate and Maintenance Commitment](#).

6. Attachments

Please attach the following to your application form: *

1. Photos of the project site(s).
2. Itemized budget for the proposed BMP(s).
3. Vendor quotes (if applicable).

Drag and drop files here or [browse files](#)

Submit

Inspect



Date:

Participant Name:
Participant Address:

Subject **Notice to Proceed**
Project Name:
Project Number:

Dear,

In accordance with the above referenced project number, this is your Notice to Proceed on the installation on the proposed BMP's on the property.

Important information and timelines are as follows:

- Commencement date: 01/21/25
- Estimated 50% completion date: 02/20/25
- Estimated 100% completion date: 03/22/25
- Rebate request submittal deadline: 04/21/25

Please contact NEST Program Coordinator (info below) to schedule both a 50% completion site visit (if requesting a rebate amount of \$3,000 or greater) and a 100% completion final inspection site visit.

Program will pay 100% of the cost of eligible items up to the maximum amount for each BMP. For a breakdown of rebate amounts reference handbook.

The County looks forward to working with you on this project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

NEST Program Coordinator
Jen Rudolph
jrudolph@scgov.net
941-861-6378

Billing and Assessments Supervisor
Holly Mathis
hmathis@scgov.net
941-702-3126

Install



Request



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Rebate Request Form

Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

Participant Name: _____
Participant Address: _____

BMP Installed	Total Cost for Eligible Items*
1.	\$ _____
2.	\$ _____

*Eligible items for rebate are components of the BMP which are tangible and directly associated with the project. This rebate does not extend to intangible items, such as labor costs, nor does it include tools that are commonly used for general purposes, such as cutting shears, shovels, and similar equipment.

*For Impervious Replacement, rebate amount is determined by square footage of impervious material replaced with a permeable alternative at \$5/square foot.

Please include the following items for a complete Rebate Request Packet:

- Invoice(s) and/or receipt(s) for materials or from vendor indicating work has been paid in full
- Proof of payment (copy of cancelled check or statement indicating amount spent on the project)
- Pictures taken during construction and of completed project

Email Rebate Request Form with required documentation to raincheck@scgov.net or mail to SEU Incentive Rebate Program 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34240. Please allow up to 90 days for processing.

Rebate request packet will be reviewed for completion and accuracy. Applicant will receive Notice of Rebate Request form with actual requested rebate amount.

Participant
Signature: _____
Date: _____

For office use only:

Final site inspection completed by NEST staff

Check if the following items are included:
 Invoice(s) and/or receipt(s)
 Proof of payment
 Pictures of completed project

Staff
Print Name: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____



Date: _____

Participant Name: _____
Participant Address: _____

Subject: **Notice of Rebate Request**
PID: _____
BMP(s): _____
Requested Amount: _____

Dear _____

In accordance with the above referenced project number, this is your Notice of Rebate Request and the amount requested on your behalf.

We appreciate your participation and contribution to our community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Holly Mathis
Billing and Assessments
Supervisor hmathis@scgov.net
941-867-2581

Jen Rudolph
NEST Program Coordinator
raincheck@scgov.net
941-861-0940



Rain Check Dashboard



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Applications

Total Amount Rebated

\$13,444

Average Length of Project

74 Days

from application to rebate

Total Number of Applicants

33

Completed

7

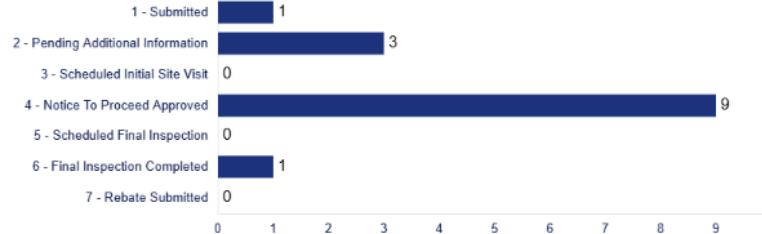
Open

13

Declined

13

Open Application Count by Status



Average Invoice Amount

\$2,336

Average Cost Recovery

Average Rebate Amount

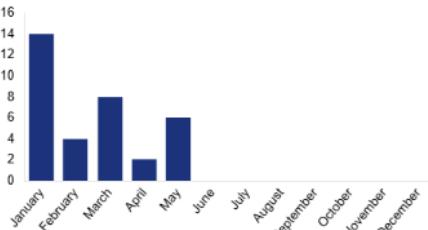
\$1,921

Average Cost Recovery

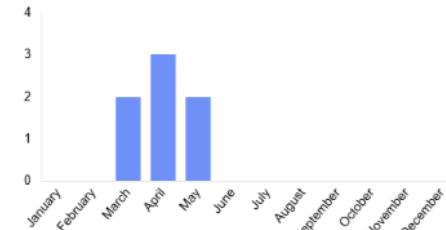
82%



Monthly Application Count



Monthly Rebate Count



Applicants

36

Total Applicants



BMP Breakdown



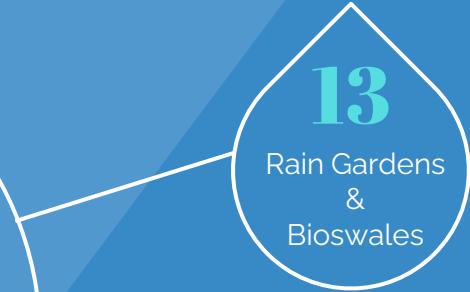
35
Total BMPs Installed



7
Impervious
Replacement



12
Modified
Downspouts
& Downspout
Planters



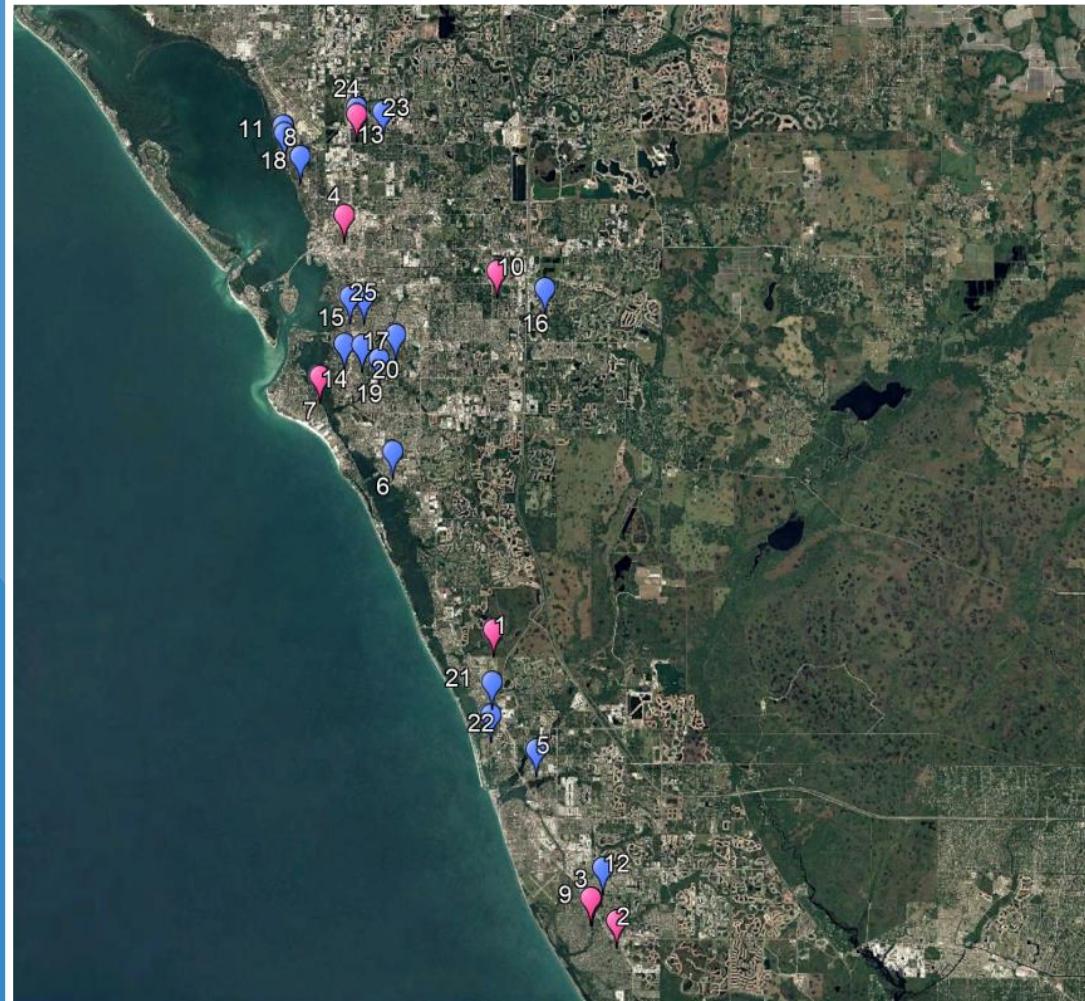
13
Rain Gardens
&
Bioswales



3
Alternative
BMPs



Current Spread of Applicants throughout Sarasota County



Modified Downspout



Bioswale



Sarasota County



Rain Garden



Downspout Planter



Impervious Replacement



Alternative BMP



Future Goals & Objectives

Goals

Public Education and Community Outreach

Strategic Initiatives



To learn more, visit:
scgov.net/raincheck





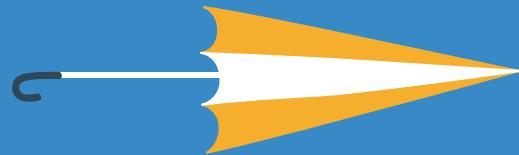
Jen Rudolph

NEST Program Coordinator
jrudolph@scgov.net
nest@scgov.net

Contact Information



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

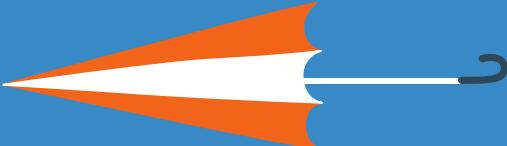


Holly Mathis

Supervisor, Billing & Assessments
hmathis@scgov.net



Stormwater Total Revenue for Effective Assessment Management





Sarasota County

Thanks!

Any Questions?

**Special thank you to
Mollie Holland and
Kayla Quinn**



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