RESOURCES FOR LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES

These resources are provided to help you:

- Do further research on specific LID strategies.
- Find local-government support for your project.
- Find supplies and services.

Listings of particular companies do not constitute an endorsement or guarantee of the quality of the product offered, nor do they necessarily represent the only available suppliers.

GENERAL LID PRACTICES

- City of Seattle Green Building Program: http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/GreenBuilding/OurProgram/Overview/
- Smart Growth Online, featuring ideas for livable communities: http://smartgrowth.org/default.asp

NEW CONSTRUCTION ON AN UNCLEARED LOT


Washington Department of Ecology Publications:

- Slope Stabilization and Erosion Control Using Vegetation
- Vegetation Management: A Guide for Puget Sound Bluff Property Owners
- Surface Water and Groundwater on Coastal Bluffs: A Guide for Puget Sound Property Owners


Salvaging Plants Before Clearing

SOILS
  Presents best practices for new construction and redevelopment—including specifications, compost sources, soil labs, and calculators for builders and designers.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: http://soils.usda.gov/
- For illustrated Soil Biology Primer, see: http://soils.usda.gov/sq/i/concepts/soil_biology/biology.html

Hand-textural analysis
http://soils.usda.gov/education/resources/k_12/lessons/texture/ or www.nativeplantsalvage.org

Soil textural triangle
http://www.pedosphere.com/resources/bulkdensity/triangle_us.cfm

Nutrient testing
Contact your local conservation district, extension service, or organic nursery for low-cost and no-cost soil testing services.

Composting
- Workshops & Bin Sales: Check with your local WSU Master Gardeners and Master Composters as well as city or county environmental offices.

Structural Soils
These engineered soils use stone aggregate coated with compost and other materials to create a compact base that can support roads and sidewalks, but still have the large pores for water and airflow, and nutrients, that street trees need to thrive. One good reference is Cornell University’s http://www.hort.cornell.edu/UHI/outreach/index.html

Building and Maintaining Urban Soils
Seattle Green Factor workshop series at http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Permits/GreenFactor/

IDENTIFYING & ERADICATING WEEDS/INVASIVE PLANTS
- Washington State Noxious Weed Board: http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/
- King County Noxious Weed Board: http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlk/lands/weeds/
- The Nature Conservancy Global Invasive Species Initiative: http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/
- Horticultural Vinegar for use in treating weeds in unplanted walkways and driveways (ask your local nursery to stock it): http://www.savvygardener.com/Reviews/Products/bradfield_vinegar.html
- Flame Weeders, useful for killing weeds between pavers or in gravel in unplanted walkways or driveways, are available through local garden-supply and hardware stores or via the Internet.
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING IDEAS

- Thurston County Common-Sense Gardening Program: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/index.html
- City of Seattle Natural Yard Care: http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/Natural_Lawn_&_Garden_Care/index.asp
- The Common Sense Gardening Guide to Natural Lawn Care, Thurston County: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/pdf/lawn_care.pdf
- King County Yard & Garden Topics: http://dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/yard-and-garden/

Landscape Planning

- City of Portland Naturescaping program: http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=dcbec

Water-wise/Drought-tolerant/Native Plants

See lists of recommended plants at:

- Thurston County Common Sense Gardening: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/pdf/Plant_Lists/CSG_plants.pdf
- Native Plant Salvage Foundation: http://www.oly-wa.us/NPS/Resources.php
- Saving Water. org: http://www.savingwater.org/outside_garden.htm See “Choosing the Right Plants” and “The Plant List.”
- WSU Extension Native Plants database: http://gardening.wsu.edu/nwnative/
- King County’s Native Plant Guide: http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/go-native/index.aspx

Water Conservation

Saving Water Partnership: http://savingwater.org/outside.htm

Obtaining Plants

Lists of Native Plant Nurseries & Other Sources:
http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/npnursery.htm
http://www.oly-wa.us/NPS/GoodSources.php
Check with your local conservation district and WSU Master Gardener program to find out about annual sales.

Street Trees

Check with your local urban forestry program for lists of recommended trees for a variety of spaces. Many supply lists for use in streetscapes that can also be applied to the rest of your yard. For instance: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/treeplanting.htm#recommend
http://www.ci.olympia.wa.us/cityservices/urbanforest/neighborhoods/

Sheet Mulching

http://www.oly-wa.us/NPS/SheetMulching.pdf
NATURAL DRAINAGE, RAIN GARDENS, BIORETENTION


RAINWATER HARVESTING

General
There are many companies that sell rain barrels and larger storage systems. Check your local hardware stores or search the Internet for “rain barrels,” or “cisterns,” depending on your interest.

- See this King County site for information on cisterns and options for building your own or buying rain barrels: “Rain Barrel Information and Sources—Saving for a Sunny Day: Rain Barrels in the Garden” http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtr/PI/rainbarrels.htm
- Seattle Rain Barrels offers general installation instructions and directions for determining how much rainwater your roof will generate at each downspout. http://www.seattlerainbarrels.com/index.html
- Garden Watersaver site provides instructions for building your own rain barrel and linking systems. http://www.gardensavers.com/1.html or 604-274-6630.

Downspout diverters
A few companies offer downspout diverters, with options for manual or automatic shut off when your rain barrel is full. Check local hardware stores or these companies:

- Downspout Diverter, closes when barrel is full; $24.95 from Gardener’s Supply Company, 888-833-1412, http://www.gardeners.com/Downspout-Diverter/default/33-991.prd
- “Save the Rain Diverter,” must be manually closed when barrel is full; $22 from Real Goods, 877-989-6321, http://www.gaiam.com/retail/product/46209
- “Drought Buster,” downspout rainwater redistributor, for use with or without rain barrels to direct roof runoff into a stormwater feature. From Clean Air Gardening, 214-363-5170, http://www.cleanairgardening.com/gawadoat.html
- Installation instructions for manual diverter: www.nativeplantsalvage.org

Rain barrel linking systems

- Check local hardware stores for supplies for making your own.
- Directions for your own available at: http://www.gardenwatersaver.com/30.html and www.nativeplantsalvage.org
PERVIOUS PAVEMENTS

- ToolBase Resources, overview of several systems and manufacturers: http://www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Sitework/permeable-pavement

Permeable Pavers:
- Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute: http://www.icpi.org/homeowners/find_installer.cfm

Porous aggregate-containment or reinforced turf systems:
- TerraFirm EcoGrid: http://www.terrafirmenteprises.com/ecogrid.html
- Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute: http://www.icpi.org/homeowners/find_installer.cfm

Pervious Concrete
Concrete Council: http://www.perviouspavement.org/

Porous Asphalt

GREEN ROOFS

- www.greenroofs.com
- www.greenroofs.org
- www.ecobuilding.org
- www.greenroofs.ca
- www.ecoroofofseverywhere.org
- www.hadj.net

Research on Green Roofs:
- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services: http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=36055&

MINIMAL-EXCAVATION FOUNDATIONS

This resource list was prepared by the Native Plant Salvage Project, WSU Thurston County Extension, with support from the Puget Sound Action Team. For more information, please see www.nativeplantsalvage.org.