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# Detroit residents receive training to reduce storm water runoff, earn water bill credit

*By installing green infrastructure, Detroiters can reduce risk of flooding, cut down on water bills*

DETROIT – Local residents could save money on their water bills thanks to a training this weekend hosted by the **Detroit Climate Action Collaborative** (DCAC), an initiative of **Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice** (DWEJ).

In October, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department initiated a green infrastructure credit program that provides credits on residents' water bills if they take steps to reduce storm water runoff. On Saturday, DCAC trained members of the community, as part of their Detroit Climate Ambassadors program, on how to obtain green infrastructure credits.

"Detroiters have been burdened by increased drainage fees and excessive flooding due to heavy rainfall and outdated infrastructure," said **Kimberly Hill Knott**, policy director for DWEJ. "DCAC is training local residents in neighborhoods hit hardest by flooding to reduce storm water runoff and help with the city's drainage fees."

This year's heavy rainfall has been devastating for many Detroit residents, especially in Detroit's East Side, including the Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood. Many Detroiters have experienced significant flooding in their homes and are concerned about the negative health impacts of mold in their basements. Green infrastructure, like rain gardens, rain barrels, downspout disconnection and permeable pavement, are all effective ways to reduce storm water runoff and decrease the likelihood of home flooding.

"Excessive storm water runoff is a serious problem in our neighborhoods, and by teaching Detroiters about green infrastructure, we can all work together to reduce the risk of home flooding, protect our waters and save money on our water bills," said **Detroit Climate Ambassador Alessandra Carreon**. "As a climate ambassador, we strive to make sure our communities are aware of the resources and methods available to help solve these issues and promote sustainability."

The Detroit Climate Ambassadors seek to build resilience to a changing climate by engaging Detroit area residents and working collaboratively. Climate Ambassadors connect, prepare and take action through community-based climate action projects.

For more information about the Climate Ambassadors program and other initiatives of DWEJ and DCAC, visit [www.dwej.org](http://www.dwej.org).

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