

Alternative Rating Systems: New Incentives for Sustainable Development



Santa Clara Basin
Watershed Management Initiative
Land Use ❖ Subgroup

Carrie Jensen
H. T. Harvey & Associates

Outline of Presentation

- Brief overview of three alternative rating systems
 - Sustainable Sites Initiative
 - Bay Friendly Landscaping
 - Build It Green- GreenPoint Rated
- Compare and contrast
- Concluding thoughts on each



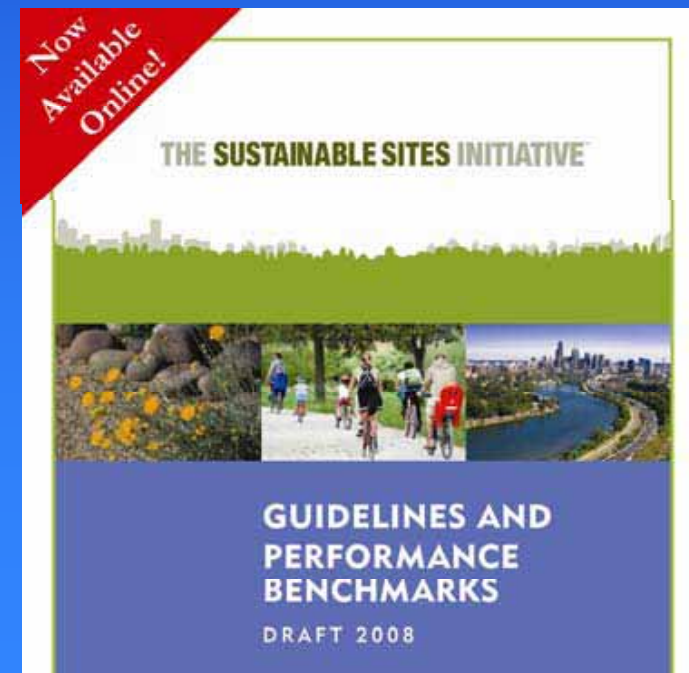
THE SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE™

A silhouette of a city skyline with various buildings and trees, rendered in shades of green and grey, positioned below the title.

- Draft rating system for sustainable land development/management
- For sites with or without buildings
- Addresses design, construction, operations and maintenance
- Includes 14 prerequisites and 45 credits.
- Anticipated to become a LEED rating system.
- Sponsored by:
 - American Society of Landscape Architects
 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
 - United States Botanic Garden

Sustainable Sites Initiative Timeline

- **November 2008** – Draft guidelines and benchmarks published
- **Late 2009** – Publish 2009 Guidelines and Benchmarks
- **2010** – Establish pilot projects nationwide
- **After 2010** – Prepare reference guide with pilot project feedback.



Bay Friendly Landscaping Rating System

- Specific to **Bay Area** – started in Alameda County
- Version 1.0 published in March 2009
- Focus on **landscaping** practices
- 9 required practices and 215 credits
- Minimum score of 60 points
- **Third party rater** verifies Bay Friendly rating



Build It Green – GreenPoint Rated

- A **California** rating system
- Criteria for **green homes**
 - Single family
 - Multi-family
 - Remodels
 - Existing homes
- Build It Green offers 4 points for meeting Bay Friendly Landscaping requirements
- Comparison based on single family criteria



Comparison of Rating Systems



LID Practice	SSI	BFL	BIG
Irrigation: reduced or no potable water	✓	✓	✓
Preserve/restore plant biomass on-site (density of vegetative cover)	✓		
Reduce impervious surfaces		✓	
50% or more native planting	✓	✓	✓
Riparian and/or wetland buffers	✓	✓	
Restore predevelopment hydrology	✓	✓	
Rainwater harvesting system			✓

Comparison of Rating Systems



LID Practice	SSI	BFL	BIG
Stormwater treatment	✓	✓	
No potable water in ornamental, stormwater uses	✓		
Minimize potable water for human contact water features	✓		
Design stormwater features to be landscape amenity	✓		
Erosion control plan/protect soils	✓	✓	✓
Select appropriate plants	✓	✓	✓

Riparian buffer

Comparison of Rating Systems



LID Practice	SSI	BFL	BIG
Limit construction footprint		✓	✓
High-efficiency irrigation system		✓	✓
Minimize use of turf		✓	✓
Use hydrozoning (group plants by watering needs)		✓	✓
Plant shade trees	✓	✓	✓
Minimize/eliminate use of pesticides (mulching to control weeds)	✓	✓	✓
Minimize/avoid synthetic fertilizers (use compost and other organic fertilizers)	✓	✓	✓

Concluding Thoughts

Sustainable Sites

- More “landscape architecture” credits (views, aesthetics, recreation, community involvement) than Bay Friendly
- Less credits for avoiding pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, turf, irrigation than Bay Friendly
- Tough criteria for restoring pre-development hydrology.



Concluding Thoughts

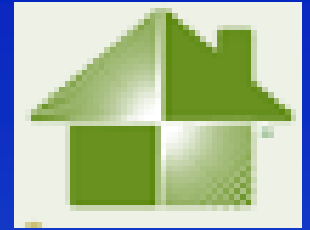
Bay Friendly Landscaping

- Has more credits for avoiding pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, turf, irrigation than Sustainable Sites
- Stormwater treatment criterion easily met with C.3 compliance
- Restoring predevelopment hydrology and/or vegetation may be tough (20% of site)



Concluding Thoughts

Build It Green – GreenPoint Rated



- Not specifically for land development and landscaping practices
- Has more credits for reducing turf, pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, irrigation than LEED for Homes
- No credit for stormwater treatment
- No credit for preserving site hydrology (hydromodification management)

Questions?



cjensen@harveyecology.com