



## *Collaborative Success Stories:* Sustain a Greener Ohio

Stark County and close to a dozen Cities and Townships  
Collaborate to purchase equipment and map stormwater

Nearly a dozen communities in Stark County, Ohio chose to work together to save money and improve stormwater management capacities by completing federally required stormwater mapping together. By collaborating, they met mandates more effectively and efficiently than if each community were to “go it alone.” Their collaboration, entitled “Sustain a Greener Ohio,” allows participating jurisdictions to share costs of hardware, software, training, and personnel, and to take advantage of existing technology and expertise. One such shared resource is the Geographic Information System (GIS) managed by the county’s Regional Planning Commission (RPC). By tapping into the RPC’s GIS and administrative capabilities, the participating communities are developing a unified and comprehensive map of their stormwater systems.

In their application for EfficientGovNow (EGN), project leaders estimated that attempting this project separately would have cost the participating storm-water districts a total of more than \$1.4 million over a five-year period. However, by collaborating on this project under the leadership of the Stark County RPC, the communities expect a savings of more than half a million dollars. Over the long run, this approach to compliance with federal storm-water mandates will not only save money, it will also enable better service, problem identification, and emergency response for the region.

The project is off to a rapid start, in spite of the fact that it did not receive an EGN grant. Participants committed financially and contractually to the project in 2009. By fall of that year, necessary personnel were being hired, and the mapping began in earnest by November 2009. A grid map of all storm water sewer districts determined that the project would require the completion of 417 grids. By 2010, 45 grids had various levels of inventory finished and the project is on schedule to be done prior to the February 2014 compliance deadline.