



News Article: The Case for Source Control on 01 February 2002

WinDes News - The Case for Source Control

As the Environment Agency and Sepa promote a sea change in the approach to sustainable drainage design, Micro Drainage has met the challenge. WinDes W7 is the first comprehensive suite of drainage software to include design and simulation modules for Source Control.

We are collaborating with the Environment Agency, leading academics and research groups in the fields of source control and CSO pollution to ensure that our software can meet the challenges facing all those in the urban drainage industry.

Our new Source Control software has been adopted by over 100 companies, including the Environment Agency, in the last few months.

Recent flooding throughout the country has alerted the public, the media and the industry to the impact of urban drainage on the environment. The wide adoption of Micro Drainage's Source Control software is testimony to the industry's recognition that a radical new approach is needed for urban drainage. The software has also been upgraded to use the latest rainfall statistics from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

Good practice costs thought not money.

Developers may meet future requirements and be seen as environmentally responsible by adopting Best Management Practices now. It will not necessarily cost more money to ensure that the best possible source control measures are adopted for new developments. The Environment Agency currently requires expensive storage structures as source control measures. However it may be possible to distribute storage throughout the site more economically by utilising porous paving and infiltration techniques that are also more environmentally sustainable. SEPA and the EA are actively encouraging these techniques and developers need to be aware of developments in this field.

The focus of SEPA and the Environment Agency is beginning to turn to the problem of flash runoff from new development. Developers should be aware that the spotlight of legislation and planning controls will fall on source control. If the effects of flash runoff from new development can be mitigated then the need for grandiose storage schemes near urban outfalls may be obviated. What is clear to all, is that the advent of climate change will accelerate the need for the widespread adoption of source control. The challenge we have set ourselves at Micro Drainage is to provide the tools for this process to be conducted efficiently and economically. While the requirements of drainage engineering become more complex, Micro Drainage gets faster, more productive and easier to use.

For more information on our new WinDes products for Source Control, Quantities & Costing see the products page.

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