

How policy changes can impact the collaboration between the sweeping community and stormwater professionals

Based on the conversation between [WorldSweeper.com](#)'s Editor, Ranger Kidwell-Ross, and Seth Brown, Executive Director of the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance, several policy changes could significantly impact the collaboration between sweepers and stormwater professionals (to read and/or listen to a Zoomcast conversation between them, go to [this link](#)):

1. **Regulatory credits:** Implementing more comprehensive and nuanced regulatory credit systems for street sweeping programs could incentivize better practices. This would involve differentiating between sweeper types, sweeping frequency, and other program elements.
2. **Standardized testing:** Developing and adopting standardized testing procedures for street sweepers could provide reliable data for stormwater professionals to make informed decisions. This could be facilitated through organizations like ASTM or NMSA's STEPP program.
3. **Performance-based regulations:** Moving away from simple "checkbox" compliance towards performance-based regulations could encourage more effective street sweeping practices.
4. **Funding allocation:** Policies that recognize street sweeping as an effective stormwater management tool could lead to increased funding opportunities, such as through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.
5. **Technology-specific guidelines:** Developing guidelines that account for different sweeper technologies (e.g., mechanical broom vs. regenerative air) could promote the use of more effective equipment.

6. **Enhanced sweeping requirements:** Policies that require or incentivize "enhanced" street sweeping practices, such as vehicle removal during sweeping operations, could improve program effectiveness.
7. **Integration with other BMPs:** Policies that encourage a holistic approach to stormwater management, recognizing street sweeping's role in conjunction with other best management practices, could lead to more comprehensive programs.
8. **Data collection and reporting:** Implementing requirements for more detailed data collection and reporting on street sweeping programs could provide valuable information for policy-makers and stormwater professionals.
9. **Climate-specific regulations:** Developing policies that account for regional climate differences could lead to more tailored and effective street sweeping programs.
10. **Pollutant-specific guidelines:** Creating policies that address specific pollutants of concern, such as microplastics or tire wear particles, could drive innovation in street sweeping practices and technologies.

These policy changes could foster stronger collaboration between sweepers and stormwater professionals by creating a shared framework for evaluating and implementing effective street sweeping programs.

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Feel free to contact the editor via email sent to editor@worldsweeper.com.

