

Australian Biofiltration Media Technology Takes LEED at North America Border Crossing

It is always great to hear reports of how Australian products, technologies and innovations are received and acknowledged overseas. An Australian company's recycled biofiltration media technology (STAR Water) was installed in rain gardens and bioswales at the Peace Arch Border Crossing Visitor Centre, which is located on the US/Canada border between Washington State and British Columbia. The recycled media gained valuable points towards achieving Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) status for the project.

The project also involved the Canadian companies Cascade Envirotech, Yardworks Supply Ltd and Van der Zalm and Associates Inc (Landscape Designers). Based on the identified pollutant loadings from the site runoff a customised treatment media was purpose designed to remove nutrients, petroleum hydrocarbons, metals and pathogens that result from the border crossing's heavy traffic flows. The treatment media design methodology is based on fundamental data developed during the extensive Australian research program conducted by University of Technology Sydney.

This research identified design parameters to engineer media that achieve required hydrology, residence time, high pollutant removal rates and maximise lifespan. The media designs are tailored to achieve high treatment performance combined with effective plant growth properties to enhance the phytoremediation process. Biological amendments are also used to periodically recharge the treatment system to prolong its life. In North America this takes place after the icy winter conditions have abated.

"The installation has been through its first icy cold winter and the new spring growth has exceeded even our expectations" says Darryl Todd of Cascade Envirotech. "There is some run-off into nearby waterways but much of the treated water is supplied to a neighbouring golf course to reduce its potable water usage. The reactive filter media is expected to last for the life of the asset without needing to be replaced".



Post winter growth of Swale section containing Star Reactive Filter Media

STORMWATER 10

2010 National Stormwater Conference – Registration available NOW

Over the last few weeks we have been able to finalise our list of Keynote Speakers for the National Stormwater Conference and with over 80 abstracts received for the concurrent paper sessions, this year's conference is shaping up to be a 'must attend' event for stormwater professionals across Australia.

In 2010 our keynote speakers will include:

- Senator Nick Xenophon
- Chris Davis, Commissioner, National Water Commission
- Prof Tony Wong, Monash University
- Prof Peter Newman, Curtin University
- Tan Nguan Sen, Director, Public Utilities Board of Singapore

This year's conference will feature four streams of concurrent papers over two days which will feature presentations on the following topics:

- Supporting Better Urban Outcomes - Biodiversity and Amenity
- Protecting our Urban Waterways - Water Quality and Managing Flow Impacts
- Managing Open Spaces - Sustainable Stormwater Harvest
- Building our Future - Policy, Planning and Knowledge
- Institutional Capacity Building - Improving Governance of Stormwater

Early Bird registration is NOW AVAILABLE via the conference website at: www.gemsevents.com.au/stormwater2010

For further information about STORMWATER 2010 please contact Julie McGraw at GEMS Event Management at jmcgraw@gemspl.com.au or call 02 9744 5252.