

Stormwater, Compost and Rain Barrels:

Notes from the Lower Merion Environmental Advisory Council

What does stormwater runoff have to do with home composting and rain barrels? We'll get to that in a minute, but first, some basic topics to review.

Most of us know that stormwater runoff is a universal problem. Too much runoff erodes our soils, floods our properties and roads and damages our homes and other infrastructure. Runoff also damages our natural ecosystems by destroying the habitats of the bugs and other life forms that inhabit our streams. The bottom line? Too much water, too much pollution and too much warm water leaves our properties and flows untreated into our streams each time it rains.

There are things that we can all do to reduce the impact that stormwater runoff causes. **Using a rain barrel or improving the water holding capacity of our lawns and gardens is a great start.** By installing a rain barrel or two at your roof downspouts, you can keep many gallons of water from leaving your property and put it to better use for plant watering, car washing, or any other clean water use. Every gallon of water you keep

from your roof is one less gallon of water running into the stream. You also don't get a monthly bill for water collected from your roof, which can reduce your water and sewer bills!

Another option is to become a home composter. Using your own yard and food scraps and putting the composted material back onto your lawn or into your garden increases the water hold capacity of the soil. **Soil acts like a sponge to hold rainfall - and the bigger the sponge, the more water it can hold.** When you compost at home, you also decrease the amount of waste you put out for weekly trash collection, and we all know that can save money for both you and the Township.

The Lower Merion Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is offering two

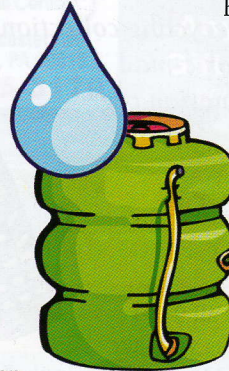
educational programs in March 2010. Both begin at 10 a.m. in the Board Room of the Township Administration Building, 75 E. Lancaster Avenue in Ardmore:

- **March 20, 2010** – in response to the success of 2009's workshop, a second home composting education program will be held. The \$40.50 cost includes the workshop and a compost bin.

- **March 27, 2010** - a rain barrel education program will be held. The \$69 cost for the session includes a rain barrel!

For more information about these and other EAC programs, visit

www.lowermerion.org or e-mail EAC Chairman Eric Lowry at ericlowry@yahoo.com. Hope to see you at the upcoming sessions!



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