

2013 WATERSHED GRANTS PROGRAM
SMALL SCALE STORMWATER
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS (S3DP)

**WATER COLLECTION AND LIVING
WALL AT THE STRIEBINGER BLOCK**

NEORSD FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

1. Information on seasonality of the project -- is this a two, three, or four season project?

This is a four-season project in that the living wall will be visible year-round, and that the collected water will be used year-round. We do anticipate a period of about one season when our irrigation pipes will be frozen and the plants on the living wall will go dormant. We plan to use entirely perennial plants for the wall to ensure a manageable amount of maintenance and ongoing cycle for the wall.

2. Sizing of the project -- how was it determined?

The sizing of the living wall itself was determined from a design perspective, to span the length of the building from Church Street to Detroit Ave. This gives the wall a civic-scale feel and visually links the entire building together. Using the living wall to encircle the upper-floor windows adds to the dramatic vertical effect while helping to insulate the upper floor apartments.

As for the irrigation system, we determined the square footage of the roof and former coal room, which we will use for the water collection barrels. The timing of this project could not be

better: if this project is granted financial support, we would be able to incorporate the collected water into a larger grey water plan for the building. In addition to rainwater being used for the living wall, we would also be able to use this water for other landscaping on the property, for select toilet flush use, and for other grey water needs around the building (e.g. power washing).

3. Complete description of water usage.

As mentioned in Question 2, we plan to use the collected water for a number of uses. Among these are irrigation for the living wall, watering of other landscape elements around the site (plantings on the street sidewalks and in the courtyard), grey water flush systems for toilets in the building, and other miscellaneous water needs for the building, such as courtyard, brick wall, and sidewalk power washing. Please see the attached rendering of the four water collection drums on-site for reference.

4. Is there a similar project or is it being modeled after something?

We have extensively researched other living wall projects in both the United States and internationally. Large living wall projects that we have carefully studied include those at the Caixa Forum in Madrid and at the Musee Branly in Paris. We have had the privilege of meeting and hearing about the work of Patrick Blanc, French Landscape Architect and expert on

living walls. We have also retained the pro bono living wall consultation of Erin Kelly, Harvard-trained Landscape Architect out of Detroit. Although there are not, to our knowledge, any examples of outdoor living walls in the Cleveland area, there are many successful examples in other cities – in this sense we are pioneers of this work in Cleveland but have the privilege of resources and support through those working on similar projects in other places. We believe that the living wall's status as the first in Cleveland will also add to its earned media potential and visibility.

