

## Power Sweepers Remove Stormwater Pollutants

*Designers of sweeping programs need to learn about the relatively inexpensive role sweeping has in removing pollutants from the runoff stream. Street cleaning has the broadest potential for reducing stormwater pollution in the urban environment. That's because half of all the rain that falls on impervious surfaces connected to urban stormwater collection systems is falling on pavement.*

In the past five years, updated sweeper designs that are much more efficient at picking up accumulated contaminants have entered the market. Yet, many jurisdictions that are now imposing stormwater runoff taxes and spending high dollars in an attempt to reduce their runoff pollution have, at the same time, cut back on their sweeping efforts. The only rational reason can be that they lack knowledge about the positive, relatively cost-effective impact a well-planned environmental sweeping program now can attain.

### CWA Requirements

Wherever Clean Water Act compliance is required, sweeping program designers need to learn about the role newer sweepers can have in removing pollutants from the runoff stream.

Studies confirm the real-world pickup efficiency of today's broom sweepers is probably only between 20 and 35%. Despite this fact, mechanical broom sweepers continue to be the leading type used by municipalities in the United States.

As municipalities struggle to reduce non-point source pollutants and meet the Best Management Practices requirements of Phase I and II, newer technologies of regenerative air and vacuum sweeper models are clearly a better choice. These have both been shown to raise pickup efficiencies into the 60 to 90% and above range.

A study of structural BMPs by the California Department of Transportation indicates the cost per pound of pollutant removed (as Total Suspended Solids) runs \$10 to \$60, not including land costs.

In contrast, sweeping industry studies by well-known researcher, Roger Sutherland, of Oregon-based Pacific Water Resources, indicate that newer mechanical broom sweepers reduce TSS in stormwater at a cost of \$5 to \$10 per pound. Regenerative air and vacuum-assisted sweepers offer an even higher level of efficiency, removing TSS at a cost of \$2 to \$5 per pound.



Provided by Clean Sweep, Inc. in the interest of promoting sound and ethical business practices in the power sweeping industry.



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