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From: [The Stormwater Report](#)

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To: sboynton@pwea.org

Subject: [The Stormwater Report](#): Facing hefty cleanup costs, Minnesota cities sue refiners over PAH in retention ponds

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WEB VIEW - VOL. 9, NO. 2



Facing hefty cleanup costs, Minnesota cities sue refiners over PAH in retention ponds

A group of eight Minnesota municipalities recently filed federal lawsuits against seven chemical refiners. The municipalities seek to offset the costs of limiting environmental damages from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The plaintiffs allege that the refiners knowingly sold coal tar-based pavement sealants high in PAHs despite widespread evidence that the substances can cause cancer in humans and harm to fish when unsettled by car tires and swept into waterways by wind or rain.

The sealants, made from refined coal tar, were once commonly painted over parking lots, driveways, and other hardscapes to enhance aging pavement's ability to weather the elements. [As these sealants degrade and runoff, they accumulate in stormwater retention features.](#)

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WEF readers lead the way in addressing stormwater issues.

Target Field, home of Minnesota Twins, unveils plans for enormous 'living wall'

In the upcoming 2019 professional baseball season, the Boston Red Sox's Fenway Park won't be the only Major League Baseball venue sporting a Green Monster.

The Minnesota Twins announced in January plans to construct a massive "living wall" directly opposite home plate at Minneapolis' Target Field. Facilities staff expect construction on the living wall to wrap up in time for the team's season opener against the Cleveland Indians on March 28.

The living wall will be an eye-catching lattice of hanging plants meant to increase air quality at the ballpark. [The wall will fully self-irrigate with the help of Target Field's state-of-the-art rainwater recycling system.](#)

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Denmark demonstrates footprint-free stormwater treatment method

The Danish island of Amager, located just east of Copenhagen, is the testing ground for an innovative stormwater treatment technology called dual porosity filtration (DPF).

Early results from a demonstration DPF facility recently constructed on the island's water-conscious Ørestad district have proven the technology's ability to treat up to 110 L (30 gal) of urban, street-level runoff per second, say its creators.

["We have invented a green technology inspired by the way substances are transported through layers of soil in Denmark,"](#) said inventor Marina Bergen Jensen, a University of Copenhagen (UC) landscape architecture professor.

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Record-breaking summer rainfall undermines Chesapeake Bay recovery efforts

Despite slight improvements to the Chesapeake Bay's dissolved oxygen concentration, underwater grass growth, and shoreside green spaces during the last 2 years, scientists monitoring the largest estuary in the U.S. graded the bay's overall health as a D+ in their 2018 *State of the Bay Report*.

The assessment, published every other year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF; Annapolis, Md.), cites unusually wet weather in the Mid-Atlantic region in 2017 and 2018 as a major reason for the uncharacteristic decline in score. [According to past reports, this is the first year since 2007 that bay health has declined.](#)

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Video animations depict market-based options for stormwater infrastructure and finance

Stormwater financing can be complicated.

Luckily, a team from the Great Lakes area has created a collection of animated videos to help explain three market-based financing options. Animations by the team, funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, cover community-based public-private partnerships, stormwater credit trading, and environmental impact bonds. [View the videos.](#)

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