

Chapter 6 Off-Site Retention for Regulated Projects

This chapter explains what an Off-site Retention Volume (Offv) is and how to comply with an Offv requirement using Stormwater Retention Credits (SRCs) or by paying the In-lieu Fee (ILF).

Chapter 7 explains what Stormwater Retention Credits (SRCs) are, the types of SRCs, and the requirements and process to generate, and sell SRCs, including maintenance and inspection requirements.

6.1 What is an Offv?

An Offv is the portion of the required Stormwater Retention Volume (SWRv) that a major regulated project does not retain on site. Both volumes are measured in gallons.

The SWRv and the Offv are annual, ongoing, legal requirements stated in a stormwater management plan (SWMP) that DOEE approves before the project can begin construction (see Section 5.2). The Offv requirement remains in effect until the site is redeveloped under a new SWMP that changes the required SWRv and Offv amounts.

All major regulated projects are allowed to comply with up to 50% of the SWRv off-site.

Additional flexibility. Two waivers are available for a major regulated project with an Offv requirement in the Gray Combined Sewer System (CSS) area:

- **On-site Retention waiver.** DOEE will waive the minimum 50% on-site retention volume requirement when the property owner commits to using only High-Impact SRCs or Low-Impact Voluntary SRCs to comply with the Offv requirement for the life of the project.
- **2-year Storm Detention waiver.** When DOEE waives the on-site retention requirement, DOEE will also waive the 2-year storm detention requirement when the property owner commits to using only High-Impact SRCs to comply with the Offv requirement for the life of the project (meaning the property owner may not use Low-Impact Voluntary SRCs for their on-site retention waiver if they also request this detention waiver).

See Section 2.3 for information about minimum on-site requirements.

6.2 Who must comply with an Offv requirement?

The property owner for a major regulated project must comply with the Offv requirement.

- The Offv requirement transfers automatically to each new owner of the property.
- For a privately owned project, the Offv requirement is recorded in a declaration of covenants that is filed with the Recorder of Deeds and attached to the property deed.

6.2.1 Confirming the property owner and contact person

As part of the review for an SWMP, DOEE confirms property ownership using the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue Real Property Database and records a “site owner” in DOEE’s Surface and Groundwater System (SGS), available at <https://doee/dc/gov/sgs>.

- In the SGS, the site owner should be the property owner or the entity responsible for long-term maintenance of the site. DOEE may request additional information from a property owner to confirm the correct contact person and approve the contact person’s SGS account.
- The main contact for the site owner receives notifications from the SGS about the project, including reminders about Offv requirements. The main contact can provide other SGS account holders (colleagues, engineers, architects, etc.) with access to site and plan records. This access enables teams to collaborate to submit plans and applications; manage project construction and maintenance; comply with Offv requirements; or generate SRCs.
- When property ownership changes, the main contact for the new or former property owner completes a form in the SGS to provide proof of current ownership and contact information for the new site owner.

6.2.2 Failure to comply with an Offv requirement

If a site owner fails to comply with an Offv requirement, DOEE will notify the site owner in writing. If the site owner does not comply with the Offv requirement within 30 days of DOEE’s notice:

- DOEE will administratively use any eligible SRCs in the site owner’s account to the outstanding Offv requirement;
- DOEE will require the site owner to pay the ILF plus an additional 10% late fee for any remaining Offv amount that is required; and
- DOEE may also take enforcement action against the owner of a major regulated site who fails to comply with an Offv requirement.

6.3 Options to comply with an Offv requirement

You may use SRCs, pay the ILF, or provide a combination of SRCs and ILF. Property owners have flexibility to change the approach from year to year. SRCs cost much less than ILF, so most property owners use SRCs.

SRCs, Offv, and the ILF rate are measured in gallons of retention per year.

- **1 SRC = 1 gallon of Offv compliance per year** (in most cases)

- **ILF rate = 1 gallon of Offv compliance per year**

When an Anacostia Waterfront Development Zone site (AWDZ site) has an Offv, the best compliance option is to use SRCs from the Anacostia River watershed. Very few sites are AWDZ sites, and most AWDZ sites do not have Offv. See Appendix Y for the definition of an AWDZ site.

For an AWDZ site, 1 gallon of Offv compliance per year equals:

- 1 SRC from the Anacostia watershed; or
- 1.25 SRCs from the Potomac or Rock Creek watersheds

6.4 What are SRCs?

A Stormwater Retention Credit is a tradeable unit that DOEE certifies for 1 gallon of stormwater retention capacity from a project installed in the District of Columbia, either voluntarily or in excess of a major regulated project's required SWRv.

The stormwater retention capacity that generates SRCs comes from installing and maintaining best management practices (BMPs) that are constructed according to an approved SWMP. DOEE collectively refers to stormwater retention BMPs as green infrastructure (GI).

- There is no expiration date to use an SRC. An SRC can remain “banked” or unused indefinitely.
- After an SRC is used or retired, its lifespan ends, and it cannot be used again.

See Chapter 7 for more information about SRC types and technical requirements.

6.5 How do I use SRCs?

The steps and requirements vary depending on whether you:

- Purchase SRCs from another property owner; or
- Self-generate SRCs from a project you own.

6.5.1 Who can submit the application?

To complete the applications to comply with an Offv requirement, you must have an account in the SGS, available at <https://doee/dc/gov/sgs>.

Your SGS account must have the correct system access, as the:

- Site owner (property owner) for the SRC project;
- SRC owner who received the site owner's permission to install an SRC project; or

- An account that received SRC permissions from the site owner or SRC owner.

DOEE will remind you of Offv deadlines and guide you through the steps to comply. The SGS also has instructions, guides, and videos that explain how to submit SRC applications. For general questions about using the SGS, you can contact the SGS help desk at SGS.help@dc.gov, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, except government holidays.

6.5.2 Steps to purchase SRCs

1. **Contact a seller** from the SRC Registry, available at <https://doee.dc.gov/src>. The “SRCs for Sale” page shows a list of SRC sellers, including their current prices and contact information. Sellers can only post in the SRC Registry after DOEE certifies their SRCs. Search the SRC Registry by your plan number to see the SRC types you are allowed to use for your Offv project (also see Table 6.1). The “Final SRC Sale Prices” page shows the average SRC price for previous years.
2. **Negotiate the price with the seller and conduct the sale between yourselves.** DOEE does not transfer funds between parties and is not involved in the contract or negotiations. For your convenience, the DOEE website has a sample contract template you can adjust as needed (see <https://doee.dc.gov/src> and select **SRC program resources**).
3. **Complete an application in the SGS.** The type of application the buyer completes depends on whether you purchase High-Impact SRCs or have an exception to purchase Low-Impact SRCs.

Purchase High-Impact SRCs (most common scenario)

- **Seller transfers the SRCs.** The seller will complete an application to transfer the SRCs, and DOEE will approve the transfer.
- **Buyer uses the SRCs.** When the transfer is completed, you will receive an email notification that it is time to submit an application to use the SRCs. After DOEE approves your application, you will receive an email with a letter confirming that you complied with the Offv requirement.

Important Note: You have the option to purchase enough High-Impact SRCs for multiple Offv projects at once, or you can choose to purchase extra High-Impact SRCs and bank them to use later.

Purchase Low-Impact SRCs (uncommon)

- **Seller starts the transfer application.** The seller will create and sign an application to transfer the SRCs.
- **Buyer completes the transfer application.** You will receive an email notification requesting that you complete the transfer application. You will select the SWMP number for the Offv project and then sign and submit the application.

If this step confirms that your Offv project is eligible to use Low-Impact SRCs

because there are not enough High-Impact SRCs available, then the SGS will also complete the process to use the SRCs for the next single year of Offv compliance. You will receive an email with a letter confirming that you complied with the Offv requirement.

4. **No BMP maintenance is needed for the SRCs.** When you purchase an SRC, you don't have to worry about maintenance for the BMP that generated the SRC. The project owner who certified the SRC is responsible for all BMP maintenance.

6.5.3 Steps to self-generate SRCs

When you generate your own SRCs and then use them to comply with your own Offv requirement, DOEE calls this “self-generating SRCs.” See Chapter 7 for more details about the process to certify SRCs.

1. **Install and maintain GI** as part of an approved SWMP, either for a voluntary project or to exceed the required SWRv for a major regulated project. To be eligible to certify SRCs, the project must pass a DOEE final construction inspection, have an approved as-built SWMP that has the same retention capacity as the approved plan, have all BMPs on the plan pass a maintenance inspection within the previous six months, and have a current maintenance agreement (see Chapter 7 for more information about certifying SRCs).

Confirm that the SRCs you generate match the type of SRCs you can use to comply with your Offv requirement (see Section 6.5.2).

2. **Certify the SRCs.** You will submit an application in the SGS to **certify** SRCs and attach supporting documents to confirm that you will maintain the BMPs in good working order for the entire certification period. DOEE staff may contact you for additional information. After approving your application, DOEE will create the SRC serial numbers, record them in your SGS account, and email you a confirmation letter for the certified SRCs.
3. **Use the SRCs.** After the SRCs are in your account, you will submit a brief application in the SGS to **use** the SRCs to comply with your Offv requirement. When DOEE approves your application to use SRCs, you will receive an email with a letter confirming that you complied with the Offv requirement.
4. **Continue to maintain the BMPs.** When you self-generate SRCs, you are responsible for maintaining all of the BMPs on the plan that generated the SRCs to ensure that they actually provide the amount of retention capacity you received credit for. DOEE periodically requires BMP maintenance documentation and inspections.

6.5.4 Which types of SRCs can I use for my Offv requirement?

The SGS makes it easy

The SGS makes Offv compliance easy by showing you SRC options allowed for your specific Offv project, so you don't need to figure out the rules and requirements each time.

- When you use the SRC Registry to find SRCs for sale, search by your plan number to see only the SRCs you are allowed to use for your specific Offv project, including details about the SRC type, sewershed, and watershed. The SRC Registry is available at <https://doee.dc.gov/src>.
- When you submit an application to use SRCs to comply with an Offv requirement, the application form will show only the SRCs from your account that you are allowed to use for that particular Offv project.

Understanding the rules

Even though the SGS removes the guesswork by showing the types of SRCs to use for your specific Offv project, it's helpful to be aware of the requirements, which depend mainly on whether you purchase or self-generate the SRCs.

- **High-Impact SRCs** comply with every type of Offv requirement, so all Offv projects are eligible to purchase and use High-Impact SRCs.
- **Low-Impact SRCs** can comply with some types of Offv requirements. Depending on your specific type of Offv project, you may be allowed to use Low-Impact SRCs when there are not enough High-Impact SRCs available for you to purchase to comply with the next single year of your Offv requirement (see Tables 6.1 and 6.2). These requirements are based on:
 - How many High-Impact SRCs are available to purchase on your Offv due date; and
 - Whether the Offv project:
 - Drains to the MS4 or CSS
 - Retains more or less than 50% of the SWRv on site
 - Received a waiver to retain 100% of the SWRv off site
 - Received a waiver from 2-year storm detention requirements
 - Is located in the existing public right-of-way (PROW)
 - Is an AWDZ site

Your SWMP shows whether your Offv project drains to the CSS or the MS4 area, is an AWDZ site, is located in a PROW, or received a waiver to comply with the SWRv fully off site.

Rules to purchase SRCs for an Offv requirement

When you purchase SRCs to comply with an Offv requirement, they will almost always need to be High-Impact SRCs. The SGS will automatically show you the correct option when you filter the SRC Registry by your Offv plan number. You can also view a report in the SGS that shows the types of SRCs your Offv plan can use.

Priority order. Table 6.1 shows the types of SRCs you can use for an Offv requirement in priority order, starting with High-Impact SRCs. Within the section for each Offv project type, the

next type of SRC becomes available only when the previous types in the list are not available. In this case, “not available” means that the SRC Registry’s “List of SRCs for Sale” would not have enough of that type of SRC to cover the next single year of your Offv requirement. Note that some types of Offv projects are not allowed to use certain types of SRCs to comply with the Offv requirement. In the unlikely event that you need to purchase a type of SRC that is not available in the SRC Registry, then you must pay the ILF to DOEE instead of purchasing SRCs.

Important note: If you are allowed to use a type of Low-Impact SRC, you are limited to purchasing only enough to complete the next single year of Offv compliance. You will also be required to confirm and sign the application that transfers Low-Impact SRCs to your SGS account from a seller to verify that your Offv plan is eligible to use the Low-Impact SRCs.

Table 0.1 Which SRCs can I purchase to comply with an Offv?

Offv Project Type		Which SRCs can I use?
All projects except AWDZ sites and existing PROW		
MS4		MS4 SRCs: 1. High-Impact SRCs 2. Low-Impact MS4 SRCs (only if High-Impact SRCs are not available)
Green CSS		SRCs outside the Gray CSS: 1. High-Impact SRCs 2. Low-Impact MS4 SRCs (only if High-Impact SRCs are not available) 3. Low-Impact Green CSS SRCs (only if MS4 SRCs are not available)
Gray CSS	When applying for permanent Offv compliance	30 years of High-Impact SRCs, provided up front (see Section 6.7.2)
	≥ 50% on-site retention OR < 50% on-site retention with approval for relief	1. High-Impact SRCs 2. Low-Impact MS4 SRCs (only if High-Impact SRCs are not available) 3. Low-Impact CSS SRCs (only if MS4 SRCs are not available)
	<50% on-site retention with waiver for retention but not detention	1. High-Impact SRCs 2. Low-Impact Voluntary SRCs (only if High-Impact SRCs are not available)
	<50% on-site retention with waiver for retention and detention	1. High-Impact SRCs
AWDZ sites and existing PROW		
AWDZ Site (1.25 ratio for non-Anacostia SRCs)		MS4 SRCs: 1. High-Impact SRCs 2. Low-Impact MS4 SRCs (only if High-Impact SRCs from Anacostia are not available)
Existing PROW		MS4 SRCs: 1. High-Impact SRCs 2. Low-Impact MS4 SRCs (only if High-Impact SRCs are not available)

Rules to use self-generated SRCs for an Offv requirement

When you self-generate SRCs for an Offv requirement, you may have flexibility to use more than one SRC type depending on the type of Offv project and the types of SRCs in your account

(see Table 6.2). Some types of Offv projects are not allowed to use certain types of SRCs. You can view a report in the SGS to see the types of SRCs your Offv plan can use.

If you don't have enough self-generated SRCs to cover the total Offv requirement for the next single year of Offv compliance, you can purchase SRCs to cover the difference. In that case, you must purchase the types of SRCs according to the priority order in Table 6.1.

Table 6.2 Which self-generated SRCs can I use to comply with an Offv?

Offv Project Type		Which SRCs can I use?
All projects except AWDZ sites and existing PROW		
MS4		Self-generated MS4 SRCs: • High-Impact SRCs • Low-Impact MS4 SRCs
Green CSS		Self-generated SRCs outside the Gray CSS: • High-Impact SRCs • Low-Impact MS4 SRCs • Low-Impact Green CSS SRCs
Gray CSS	When applying for permanent Offv compliance	30 years of High-Impact SRCs, provided up front (see Section 6.7.2)
	$\geq 50\%$ on-site retention OR $< 50\%$ on-site retention with approval for relief	Any self-generated SRC: • High-Impact SRCs • Low-Impact MS4 SRCs • Low-Impact CSS SRCs
	$< 50\%$ on-site retention with waiver for retention but not detention	• High-Impact SRCs • Low-Impact Voluntary SRCs
	$< 50\%$ on-site retention with waiver for retention and detention	• High-Impact SRCs
AWDZ sites and existing PROW		
AWDZ Site (1.25 ratio for non-Anacostia SRCs)		Self-generated MS4 SRCs: • High-Impact SRCs • Low-Impact MS4 SRCs
Existing PROW		Self-generated MS4 SRCs: • High-Impact SRCs • Low-Impact MS4 SRCs

6.6 How do I pay the In-Lieu Fee?

Like SRCs, the In-Lieu Fee rate is for one gallon of Offv compliance per year. DOEE uses ILF payments to fund the installation of GI projects.

SRCs cost much less than the ILF rate, so most property owners use SRCs to comply with an Offv requirement.

6.6.1 How much does ILF cost?

The ILF rate adjusts annually for inflation based on the Urban Consumer Price Index published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, as specified in the District's regulations (see 21 DCMR § 501).

- The current ILF rate is posted on DOEE's website at <https://doee.dc.gov/service/paying-lieu-fee>.
- Before paying ILF, DOEE recommends that you visit the SRC Registry (available at <http://doee.dc.gov/src>) to see current SRCs sale prices, which are typically much less expensive than paying ILF.

6.6.2 Process to pay ILF

You must notify DOEE in advance that you plan to pay ILF, and you must complete your payment by your Offv due date.

- Follow these instructions on the DOEE website: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/paying-lieu-fee>.
- For a new project, please mail your ILF payment a few weeks before the Offv due date since you cannot schedule your DOEE final inspection until you comply with the Offv requirement.
- DOEE will contact you to confirm receipt of your ILF payment.

6.7 Options to Reduce or Remove an Offv Requirement

6.7.1 Any Offv project

A property owner has the option to submit a new SWMP for DOEE approval and then reconstruct the site according to the new plan. If the new plan reduces impervious area or adds more GI, this could reduce or remove the Offv requirement. The reduced Offv requirement would take effect when the new plan completes construction.

6.7.2 Gray CSS projects

A site owner can apply to DOEE to end an Offv requirement permanently for an Offv project that drains to the Gray CSS area when they provide 30 consecutive years of High-Impact SRCs up front. The site owner can provide all 30 years of High-Impact SRCs at once or in two parts, as long as DOEE receives complete applications by the required deadlines.

One application – Provide 30 years of High-Impact SRCs and submit the application within 3 years after completing construction or by [3 years after rulemaking effective date], whichever date is later. You can deduct from the total all previous consecutive years of Offv compliance that used High-Impact SRCs.

Two-part application

- **Part 1** – Provide at least 4 years of High-Impact SRCs; submit the application within 3 years after completing construction or by [3 years after rulemaking effective date], whichever is later; and include a signed contract with a SRC seller committing to purchase the rest of the High-Impact SRCs within 4 years.
- **Part 2** – Provide enough High-Impact SRCs to total 30 consecutive years and submit Part 2 of the application within 4 years after submitting Part 1. You can deduct from the total all previous consecutive years of Offv compliance that used High-Impact SRCs.

Important notes

- If you submit **Part 1** of the application before the 3-year deadline, this makes **Part 2** due earlier too, since **Part 2** is due within 4 years after submitting **Part 1**.
- After approval, the 30-years of Offv compliance:
 - Will end the lifespan of the SRCs, meaning the SRCs cannot be returned or used again even if the site is redeveloped within the next 30 years;
 - Cannot be transferred in full or in part to a different plan; and
 - Will be revoked if any portion of the site is redeveloped before the end of the 30-year period.

Figures 6.1 and 6.2 show compliance approaches that either end or do not end the Offv requirement permanently for a project in the Gray CSS. For more examples, visit the [Stormwater Management Guidebook webpage](#) and go to the “Helpful Resources” section.

2-Part Application	Offv Year	Description	Example Due Dates	SRC Type	Offv Compliance (years)	SRCs Used (gallons)	Counts toward application
Part 1	1	DOEE final construction inspection	May 1, 2025	High-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	✓
	2		May 1, 2026	High-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	✓
	3		May 1, 2027	High-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	✓
	4	Application part 1 submitted on 3-year deadline	May 1, 2028	High-Impact SRCs	4	40,000	✓
Part 2	5		May 1, 2029	SRCs already provided	0	0	✓
	6		May 1, 2030	SRCs already provided	0	0	✓
	7		May 1, 2031	SRCs already provided	0	0	✓
	8	Application part 2 submitted on 4-year deadline after part 1 (includes previous 7 years to total 30 consecutive years)	May 1, 2032	High-Impact SRCs	23	230,000	✓
End			May 1, 2032	Offv terminated	30	300,000	

2-Part Application	Offv Year	Description	Example Due Dates	SRC Type	Offv Compliance (years)	SRCs Used (gallons)	Counts toward application
Part 1	1	DOEE final construction inspection	May 1, 2025	High-Impact SRCs	4	40,000	✓
	2	Application part 1 submitted before 3-year deadline			0	0	
	3		May 1, 2026		0	0	
	4		May 1, 2027		0	0	
Part 2	5	Deadline to provide application - part 1	May 1, 2028	High-Impact SRCs	0	0	
		Application part 2 submitted on 4-year deadline after part 1 (includes previous 4 years to total 30 consecutive years)	May 1, 2029		26	260,000	✓
End			May 1, 2029	Offv terminated	30	300,000	

Figure 6.1 Examples that end the Offv requirement in the Gray CSS

2-Part Application	Offv Year	Description	Example Due Dates	SRC Type	Offv Compliance (years)	SRCs Used (gallons)	Counts toward application
Part 1	1	DOEE final construction inspection	May 1, 2025	Self-generated Low-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	X
	2		May 1, 2026	Self-generated Low-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	X
	3		May 1, 2027	Self-generated Low-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	X
	4	Deadline to provide application - part 1	May 1, 2028	Self-generated Low-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	X
Ineligible			May 1, 2028	Must continue ongoing Offv compliance			
Part 2	5	Application part 1 - submitted after 3-year deadline	May 1, 2029	High-Impact SRCs	4	40,000	X
	6	Ongoing Offv compliance	May 1, 2030	SRCs already provided	0	0	X
	7	Ongoing Offv compliance	May 1, 2031	SRCs already provided	0	0	X
	8	Ongoing Offv compliance	May 1, 2032	High-Impact SRCs	26	260,000	X
Totals to Date					34	340,000	

2-Part Application	Offv Year	Description	Example Due Dates	SRC Type	Offv Compliance (years)	SRCs Used (gallons)	Counts toward application
Part 1	1	DOEE final construction inspection	May 1, 2025	High-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	✓
	2		May 1, 2026	High-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	✓
	3		May 1, 2027	High-Impact SRCs	1	10,000	✓
	4	Application part 1 submitted on 3-year deadline	May 1, 2028	High-Impact SRCs	4	40,000	✓
Part 2	5		May 1, 2029	SRCs already provided	0	0	✓
	6		May 1, 2030	SRCs already provided	0	0	✓
	7		May 1, 2031	SRCs already provided	0	0	✓
	8	Application part 2 submitted on 4-year deadline after part 1 (includes previous 7 years to total 27 consecutive years)	May 1, 2032	High-Impact SRCs	20	200,000	✓
Ineligible			May 1, 2030	Must continue ongoing Offv compliance			
Totals to Date					27	270,000	

Figure 6.2 Examples that do not end the Offv requirement in the Gray CSS

Chapter 7 SRC Requirements

This chapter explains what Stormwater Retention Credits (SRCs) are, the types of SRCs, and the requirements and process to generate and sell SRCs, including maintenance and inspection requirements.

Chapter 6 explains what an Off-site Retention Volume (Offv) is and how to comply with an Offv requirement using SRCs or by paying the In-lieu Fee (ILF).

Visit the DOEE website at <https://doee.dc.gov/src> for more information about the SRC program, including a “Financial Return” calculator and incentive programs to build voluntary SRC projects.

7.1 What are SRCs?

A Stormwater Retention Credit is a tradable unit that DOEE certifies for 1 gallon of stormwater retention capacity from a project installed in the District of Columbia, either voluntarily or in excess of a major regulated project’s required Stormwater Retention Volume (SWRv). DOEE assigns serial numbers to SRCs (see Section 7.10) and tracks when they are certified, transferred, used, and retired.

The stormwater retention capacity that generates SRCs comes from installing and maintaining best management practices (BMPs) that are constructed according to an approved Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). DOEE collectively refers to stormwater retention BMPs as green infrastructure (GI). See Chapter 3 for more information about BMP types and technical requirements.

- There is no expiration date to use an SRC. An SRC can remain “banked” or unused indefinitely.
- After an SRC is used or retired, its lifespan ends, and it cannot be used again.
- There are High-Impact SRCs and several types of Low-Impact SRCs (see Section 7.5).

7.2 SRC demand and supply

Demand. The majority of SRC buyers are site owners who need to comply with an Offv requirement for a major regulated project.

- **1 SRC = 1 gallon of Offv compliance per year** (in most cases).
- Site owners who need to purchase SRCs to comply with an Offv requirement are required to purchase only High-Impact SRCs unless there are not enough available in the SRC Registry. This requirement increases demand for High-Impact SRCs, which are generated

from the projects that do the best job of improving water quality and making the District a healthier place to live and work.

- In the SRC Registry, the “Expected Offv” page shows all major regulated projects that have an Offv requirement and whether those projects are purchasing or self-generating SRCs (visit <https://doee.dc.gov/src>).
- See Section 6.5.2 and Table 6.1 for the rules to purchase SRCs to comply with an Offv requirement.

Supply. In the SRC Registry, the “SRCs for Sale” page shows a list of SRC sellers, including their current prices and contact information. Sellers can only post in the SRC Registry after DOEE certifies their SRCs (visit <https://doee.dc.gov/src>).

- A buyer can filter the list of “SRCs for Sale” by their Offv plan number to see the SRC types they are allowed to purchase and use for their project.
- A buyer is not responsible for maintenance of the BMP that generated the SRC. The project owner who certified the SRC is responsible for all BMP maintenance.

7.3 How do I generate SRCs?

Overview of Steps

1. **Install and maintain GI** as part of an approved SWMP, either for a voluntary project or to exceed the required SWRv for a major regulated project. To be eligible to certify SRCs, the project must pass a DOEE final construction inspection, have an approved as-built SWMP that has the same retention capacity as the approved plan, have all BMPs on the plan pass a construction or maintenance inspection within the previous 6 months, and have a current maintenance agreement (see Section 7.6).

If you are self-generating SRCs to comply with your own Offv requirement, you need to make sure that the SRCs you generate match the types you can use for your Offv requirement (see Section 6.5.2).

2. **Certify the SRCs.** You will submit an application in DOEE’s Surface and Groundwater System (SGS) to **certify** SRCs and attach supporting documents to confirm that you will maintain the BMPs in good working order for the entire certification period (see Section 7.6 for more information about SRC applications). DOEE staff may contact you for additional information. After approving your application, DOEE will create the SRC serial numbers, add them to your SGS account, and email you a confirmation letter for the certified SRCs.
3. **Continue to maintain the BMPs.** You are responsible for maintaining all of the BMPs on a plan that generated SRCs to ensure that BMPs actually provide the amount of retention capacity you received credit for. DOEE periodically requires BMP maintenance documentation and inspections.

7.4 How many SRCs can I generate?

Amount. A project that meets all the application requirements can certify the annual amount of SRC eligibility (in gallons) specified in the approved SWMP (see Section 7.6 for information about SRC application requirements). The SGS calculates the gallons of SRC eligibility based on the project design information the engineer enters during the plan submission and review process. The DOEE website has a “Financial Return” calculator that may help evaluate design options (visit <https://doee.dc.gov/src> and click **SRC program resources**).

The SRC-eligible capacity of a project is capped at the retention volume for the 1.7-inch storm size (see Figure 7.1). DOEE calls this cap the “SRC ceiling.”

- **Voluntary projects** (i.e., projects that are not major regulated projects) can typically generate SRCs for all new stormwater retention capacity up to the retention for a 1.7-inch storm. In other words, voluntary projects generate SRCs by building GI or making land cover more pervious on a site where that is not required.
- **Major regulated projects** can typically generate SRCs by building retention capacity that exceeds the project’s required SWRv, with the SRC eligibility capped at the retention for a 1.7-inch storm. In other words, major regulated projects generate SRCs by building more or larger GI on site than is required. DOEE calls this “over control.”

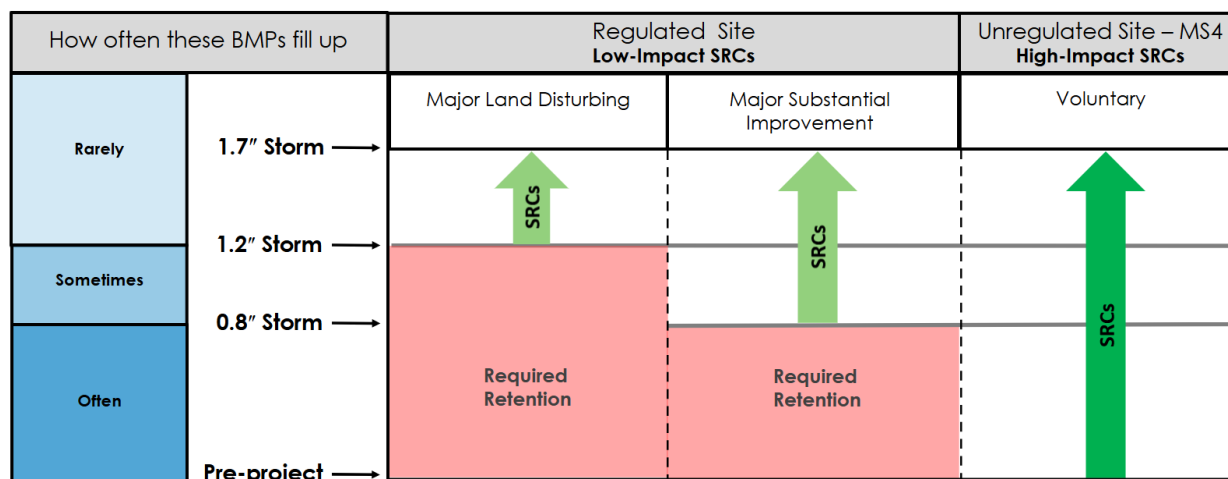


Figure 7.1 Retention volume eligible to generate SRCs.

Certification period. You can generate SRCs for 1–3 years of SRC eligibility at once, depending on the maintenance contracts and documentation you provide.

When an SRC certification period is coming to an end, you can provide new BMP maintenance documentation to DOEE to request to certify 1–3 years of new SRCs. You can repeat this cycle as long as you maintain the BMPs in good working order. See Section 7.6.4 for information about application deadlines.

SRC limits for projects that received DOEE funding. For most GI projects that received DOEE construction funding after June 19, 2013, there is an initial period where the project is only able to certify 50% of the SRC eligibility per year until DOEE recovers its investment. The project owner essentially “repays” DOEE’s investment by providing retention capacity instead of money.

- DOEE tracks the repayment amounts in the SGS based on the average SRC sale price for each calendar year, which can vary from year to year. DOEE posts the average SRC sale price for each calendar year in the SRC Registry (visit <https://doee.dc.gov/src>).
- After a project owner fulfills a repayment requirement, they are allowed to certify 100% of the SRC eligibility for each new certification period.

In some cases, there is either no repayment requirement or there may be a permanent SRC limit instead of a specific repayment amount. If your project received DOEE funding to install GI, be sure to check the program guidelines and the DOEE funding agreement to confirm the specific payback requirements, if any.

Example: DOEE pays \$5,000 of construction costs for a GI project that has 1,000 gallons of SRC eligibility per year. For the next 6 years that the project owner applies to generate SRCs, DOEE certifies only 500 SRCs per year. Instead of certifying SRCs for the remaining 500 gallons of retention capacity, DOEE calculates the current market value of that retention capacity and records it as repayment. In year 7, the project owner is eligible to begin certifying 100% of the SRC eligibility per year. Table 7.1 illustrates this example using an average SRC price that fluctuates from year to year.

Table 7.1 Example of SRC limits for a project with DOEE funding

Year	Annual SRC Eligibility	SRCs Certified	SRC Eligibility Withheld	Average SRC Price	Value Recovered this Year	Total Value Recovered to Date
1	1,000	500	500	\$1.50	\$750	\$750
2	1,000	500	500	\$2.00	\$1,000	\$1,750
3	1,000	500	500	\$2.00	\$1,000	\$2,750
4	1,000	500	500	\$1.50	\$750	\$3,500
5	1,000	500	500	\$1.00	\$500	\$4,000
6	1,000	500	500	\$2.00	\$1,000	\$5,000
7	1,000	1,000	0	Project can now certify all SRC eligibility		

7.5 What types of SRCs can I generate?

The type of SRC you can generate depends on the type of GI project you install. To understand SRC types, you first need to know that the District has two main sewershed areas:

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) area
- Combined Storm Sewer System (CSS) area

When you enter an SWMP in the SGS, the project's location determines whether it is in the MS4 area or CSS area. In a few cases (see Section 6.7.1), it is also important to know if the project's watershed (i.e., major drainage area) is Anacostia, Potomac, or Rock Creek.

See these interactive maps: [MS4 and CSS Areas](#) and [Identify Your Watershed and Sewer System](#).

SRC types in order of the environmental benefits they provide

- High-Impact SRCs (are always MS4)
- Low-Impact SRCs
 - Low-Impact MS4 SRCs
 - Low-Impact CSS SRCs, which include:
 - Voluntary CSS SRCs
 - Low-Impact Green CSS SRCs
 - Low-Impact Gray CSS SRCs

The following sections explain SRC types in more detail.

7.5.1 High-Impact SRCs

High-Impact SRCs are generated from GI projects that meet all of these criteria:

- The project drains to the **MS4 area** only.
- Construction was **completed on or after July 19, 2013**, and
- The project is **voluntary** because the GI was not built as part of a major regulated project.

7.5.2 Low-Impact SRCs

Low-Impact SRCs are generated by any project that does not meet all the criteria for High-Impact SRCs.

- **Low-Impact MS4 SRC** – The GI is installed as part of a major regulated project that drains to the MS4 area or completed construction before July 19, 2013.
- **Low-Impact CSS SRC** – Includes these subtypes:
 - **Voluntary CSS SRC** – The GI is installed as part of a voluntary project that drains to the Gray CSS or Green CSS area.
 - **Low-Impact Green CSS SRC** – The GI is installed as part of a major regulated project that drains to the Green CSS area.
 - **Low-Impact Gray CSS SRC** – The GI is installed as part of a major regulated project that drains to the Gray CSS area.

7.6 Application requirements to certify SRCs

This section provides an overview of the application process and requirements to certify SRCs. The SGS also has detailed instructions, guides, and videos that explain to how to submit SRC applications. For general questions about using the SGS, you can contact the SGS help desk at SGS.help@dc.gov, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, except government holidays.

7.6.1 Who can submit the application?

To complete an application to certify, transfer, or retire SRCs, you must have an account in SGS, available at <https://doee/dc/gov/sgs>.

Your SGS account must have the correct system access, either as the:

- Site owner (property owner) for the SRC project;
- SRC owner who received the site owner’s permission to install an SRC project; or
- An account that received SRC permissions from the site owner or SRC owner.

7.6.2 Who can own an SRC?

Generating SRCs. When you apply to certify SRCs, you need to specify the “Proposed SRC owner.” The site owner may be the proposed SRC owner, or the site owner may assign this right to any other organization, such as an SRC aggregator who received permission to install GI on a site owner’s property. The “Proposed SRC Owner” is almost always an organization, not an individual.

It is important to select the correct “Proposed SRC Owner” because this organization will become the “Original SRC owner” and will be required to maintain all BMPs on the plan in good working order for the entire certification period. The “Original SRC Owner” will also have the right to sell the SRCs or use them to comply with their own Offv.

Purchasing SRCs. Anyone with an SGS account can purchase High-Impact SRCs. In limited cases, buyers are allowed to purchase Low-Impact SRCs (see Table 6.1). When the buyer is an organization, the seller should enter the email address associated with the buyer’s organization account instead of an individual account for a person who works for that organization.

7.6.3 SRC eligibility for the project

To be eligible to certify SRCs, an SWMP must have all of these things recorded in the SGS:

- A passing DOEE final construction inspection (with rare exceptions);
- An as-built SWMP approved by a DOEE inspector;
- Passing inspections within the previous 6 months for all BMPs on the plan (which is typically the DOEE final construction inspection for the first time you certify SRCs for the plan); and

- A complete, timely application to certify SRCs that includes a complete maintenance agreement and signed cover letter.

The following sections explain the eligibility requirements in more detail.

7.6.4 Application deadlines

To avoid having the SRC eligibility expire permanently for an SWMP, you must submit applications to certify SRCs by specific deadlines that vary by project type and installation date.

If your project was installed before July 1, 2013, and has not certified SRCs yet, then it is no longer eligible because the application deadline was July 30, 2020.

For all other projects:

- **Voluntary projects** have no application deadlines.
- **Major regulated projects**
 - First application is due within 3 years after the DOEE final construction inspection date, or in rare cases, another date that DOEE has identified as the construction completion date.
 - Additional applications are due within 3 years after the end of the previous certification period.

For any SRC project, you can apply to certify additional SRCs as early as 3 months before the end of the current certification period.

7.6.5 BMP inspection deadlines

All BMPs on the SWMP must pass an inspection within 6-months before the date you apply to certify SRCs.

The first time you certify SRCs for an SWMP, the plan needs to have both of these DOEE inspection approvals recorded in the SGS:

- Final construction inspection
- As-built SWMP that has the same retention capacity as the approved plan

If you apply to certify SRCs within 6 months after completing construction, the DOEE final construction inspection will fulfill the BMP inspection requirement.

Self-Inspection Self-Reporting (SISR). A project owner with an approved SWMP is required to periodically inspect and maintain their stormwater BMPs to keep them in good working order. You will use the SISR form in the SGS to submit maintenance information and photos for each BMP on the plan, which DOEE will review to update the inspection date and status in the SGS.

To be eligible to certify SRCs, you will need to complete BMP maintenance and SISR for all BMPs on the plan during the 6-month period before you apply to certify SRCs.

DOEE occasionally contacts project owners to request BMP maintenance documentation, too, which you can provide using the SISR form in the SGS.

Learn more about the SISR process at <https://doee.dc.gov/service/sisr>.

How to see BMP inspection status in the SGS. The “BMPs” list and the “BMPs” section of the plan show the most recent maintenance inspection date and the Pass/Fail status, based on SISR and any DOEE on-site maintenance inspections. The “Inspections” section of the plan shows the date of the DOEE final construction inspection after the inspector has completed their report.

7.6.6 Maintenance agreement

Your application to certify SRCs must include a maintenance agreement for DOEE to review and approve. This agreement confirms that the site owner or project owner will maintain all the BMPs on the plan in good working order for the entire certification period to achieve the amount of retention capacity specified in the approved SWMP.

The maintenance agreement must include:

- A cover letter that the SRC owner signs acknowledging that they will be required to return SRCs if there is a maintenance failure during the certification period (see Section 7.7 for more information about failure to maintain retention capacity).
- A list of all required maintenance tasks for each BMP type in the SWMP, including the frequency for each task. Chapter 3 of this guide has separate sections for each BMP type, which each include a “Maintenance Criteria” subsection.
- A brief explanation of the maintenance providers’ experience, demonstrating that they have the expertise, capacity, and equipment required to conduct the BMP maintenance procedures specified in Chapter 3. The format for this information differs based on whether employees or contracted companies will provide the maintenance.
 - **Employees** – Include a list of staff, their respective maintenance responsibilities, and a brief statement of their experience conducting the tasks they are responsible for.
 - **Contractors** – Include a copy of an executed maintenance contract that covers the entire certification period you are requesting and specifies the maintenance tasks the contractors will perform. The maintenance contract must begin on or before the date you submit the application to certify SRCs, and it must continue long enough to cover every day of the certification period you are requesting.

7.7 How to sell SRCs

An SRC owner uses the SRC Registry to list SRCs for sale and then submits an application in the SGS to request to transfer ownership to the buyer’s SGS account.

1. The owner posts their contact information, the price per SRC, and the number of available SRCs in the SRC Registry.
2. The buyer searches the SRC Registry and contacts a seller.
3. The seller and buyer negotiate the terms and complete the financial transaction between themselves, typically using a contract. DOEE does not transfer funds between parties and is not involved in the contract or negotiations. For your convenience, the DOEE website has a sample contract template you can adjust as needed (see <https://doee.dc.gov/src> and select **SRC program resources**).
4. Then, the seller submits a brief application in the SGS to request to **transfer** the SRCs to the buyer.
 - **If the transfer is for High-Impact SRCs**, DOEE will approve the transfer.
 - **If the transfer is for Low-Impact SRCs**, the buyer will need to complete a section of the application as well. The buyer will select the SWMP number for the Offv project and sign the application. If this step confirms that the buyer is eligible to use Low-Impact SRCs for the next single year of Offv compliance (because there are not enough High-Impact SRCs available to comply with the Offv requirement), then DOEE will approve the transfer request. See Section 6.5.2 and Table 6.1 for the rules to purchase SRCs to comply with an Offv requirement.
5. When DOEE completes the transfer, the buyer and seller both receive a confirmation letter by email.

7.8 How to end the requirement to maintain a BMP that generates SRCs

The owner of an SRC project has options to stop maintaining stormwater management BMPs that generate SRCs, but the requirements to do this differ based on the project type. In either case, the project owner must retire the prorated number of SRCs that equal the number of gallons of retention capacity that will no longer be available during the current certification period.

- **Voluntary project** – Since a voluntary project does not have a required SWRv, the project owner can choose to stop certifying SRCs and stop maintaining the BMPs after they retire any of the prorated SRCs.
- **Major regulated project** – The property owner is required to retain the SWRv stated in the approved SWMP and maintain all BMPs in good working order regardless of whether or not they choose to generate SRCs for the plan. Removing a BMP or discontinuing maintenance may not only reduce the SRC eligibility for the SWMP, but it could result in an Offv requirement and enforcement action if the plan no longer complies with the required SWRv.
- To remove a required BMP from a site or to discontinue required BMP maintenance for a major regulated project, the property owner must retire the prorated SRCs and either:
 - Submit a plan revision to DOEE for approval to adjust the SWRv calculations on the approved plan; or

- Submit a new SWMP to DOEE for approval and then reconstruct the site according to the new plan.

To **retire** SRCs (equal to the number of gallons of retention capacity that will no longer be available), the project owner must submit an application in the SGS that will:

- Return to DOEE the required number of SRCs from the current certification period, or
- If the owner no longer owns SRCs for the current certification period, they can replace the SRCs in kind. The owner can provide SRCs they already own from an earlier certification period or from another project or they can purchase from the SRC Registry. See Table 7.2 for requirements to replace SRCs in kind.

Table 7.2 Requirements to replace SRCs

Original Type	Replacement Type
High-Impact SRC	High-Impact SRC
Low-Impact MS4 SRC	High-Impact SRC Low-Impact MS4 SRC
Low-Impact Green CSS SRC	High-Impact SRC Low-Impact MS4 SRC Low-Impact Green CSS SRC
Low-Impact Gray CSS SRC	Any SRC

7.9 Failure to maintain a BMP that generates SRCs

During an SRC certification period, if a project owner removes a BMP or has a failing maintenance inspection and has not already taken the steps in Section 7.8 to end the requirement to maintain the BMP, DOEE will provide the project owner with a written notice and require them to retire the prorated number of SRCs that equal the number of gallons of retention capacity that were not available during the period that the BMP was not functioning correctly.

To **retire** the SRCs, the project owner must submit an application in the SGS that will:

- Return to DOEE the prorated SRCs from the current certification period, or
- If the owner no longer owns SRCs for the current certification period, they can replace the SRCs in kind. The owner can provide SRCs they already own from an earlier certification period or from another project or they can purchase from the SRC Registry. See Table 7.2 for requirements to replace SRCs in kind.

The project owner must retire the prorated SRCs within 30 days of DOEE's notice. If the project owner does not comply within 30 days of DOEE's notice:

- DOEE will administratively retire any eligible SRCs in the project owner's account to comply with the requirement;

- DOEE will require the project owner to pay the ILF plus an additional 10% late fee for any remaining amount of SRCs that are required; and
- DOEE may also take enforcement action against the project owner.

7.10 SRC serial numbers and ranges

How to read an SRC serial number

20260101-A18-01234-000016

certification start date - major and sub drainage areas - SWMP number - individual gallon

- 20260101 = certification period started on January 1, 2026, (date application submitted)
Format is (year, month, day)
- A18 = project is located in the Anacostia watershed and Watts Branch subwatershed
watershed/major drainage area codes = A (Anacostia), P (Potomac), and R (Rock Creek)
and 18 indicates the Watts Branch subwatershed
- 01234 = SWMP number from the SGS
- 000016 = 16th gallon for this certification year

SRC ranges. When you generate SRCs in 1–3 year batches, the SRCs you receive are broken into ranges that represent each year of the certification period.

Example: SWMP 01234 is a project located in the Anacostia watershed (major drainage are) and Watts Branch subwatershed (minor drainage area). The project has 1,000 gallons of SRC eligibility per year, and the owner applies on January 1, 2026, to certify 3 years of SRCs. The SRC ranges for 3 years would have the following serial numbers representing 3,000 SRCs total. Notice how the only changes in each range are the year and the code for the gallon of retention (see yellow and gray highlights).

Year 1 (1,000 SRCs)	20260101-A18-01234-000001 - 20260101-A18-01234-001000
Year 2 (1,000 SRCs)	20270101-A18-01234-000001 - 20270101-A18-01234-001000
Year 3 (1,000 SRCs)	20280101-A18-01234-000001 - 20280101-A18-01234-001000

How to split an SRC range. When you sell (transfer) SRCs or use SRCs to comply with an Offv requirement, you may not need the entire range. In this case, you indicate the number needed as part of the application to transfer or use SRCs, and the SGS will split the range into the amounts you need.

Example: You have 1,000 SRCs in your SGS account from the 2026 range for SWMP 01234 (from the previous example). You apply to transfer or use 300 of these SRCs. Notice how the only changes in each range are the code for the gallon of retention (see gray highlights).

Before split

Range has 1,000 SRCs 20260101-A18-01234-000001 - 20260101-A18-01234-001000

After split

Transfer/use 300 SRCs 20260101-A18-01234-000001 - 20260101-A18-01234-000300

Keep 700 SRCs 20260101-A18-01234-000301 - 20260101-A18-01234-001000