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From: [Stormwater Report](#)
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STORMWATER REPORT

Defining and Defying Conventional Wisdom

*When we take the time to re-examine the everyday terms of our profession, we may learn something new with the potential to revolutionize the way we work. For example, one recent study reveals that the immense variety of definitions that stormwater agencies attach to the term **green infrastructure** can unnecessarily restrict the range of infrastructure we consider to address a problem. This edition of [Stormwater Report](#) explores new dimensions of generally well-understood topics — **green infrastructure**, **climate change**, and the behavior of extreme storms — as well as how these new perspectives can challenge conventional wisdom in our sector.*

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Researchers Propose New Definition for 'Green Infrastructure'

Depending on who you ask, the term green infrastructure might refer to natural landscapes, built infrastructure inspired by natural processes, both, or something else entirely. A recent analysis of how 20 U.S. cities define green infrastructure reveals significant differences in what types of projects and practices the term does or does not include. [The researchers propose a new, inclusive definition of green infrastructure based on findings from their analysis.](#)



Introducing Newly Identified 'Atmospheric Lakes'

In December, University of Miami (Florida) atmospheric scientist Brian Mapes described a newly discovered relative of the well-known atmospheric river: the atmospheric lake. Slower and wider than atmospheric rivers but with similar potential to deliver extreme rainfall, atmospheric lakes tend to separate from their source to form a measurably distinct pool of vapor in the atmosphere. [Learn about the newly discovered phenomenon and its importance to East African water security.](#)



More Precipitation Means Slower Economic Growth

A new study by researchers from Potsdam (Germany) Institute for Climate Impact Research finds that even minor increases in the number of extreme rainfall events a region experiences can significantly slow its long-term economic growth. Their analysis of more than 1,500 regions across 77 countries underscores the correlation between climate



change-driven increases in extreme rainfall and economic well-being. [Learn more about the study's conclusions](#).

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