



Kevin Dahms

Engineer, Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis (BEPA), NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Kevin Dahms is an engineer for DEP's Office of Green Infrastructure (OGI), a branch of the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis (BEPA). He completed his undergraduate studies in Environmental Engineering in June 2013 and has been a part of DEP since August of that year.

Dahms works as a project manager for area-wide contracts in which the OGI aims to saturate Priority Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tributary Areas with green infrastructure, primarily through the implementation of right-of-way bioswales and stormwater greenstreets. He is currently managing design contracts for CSO Tributary Areas in Queens. In addition to managing green infrastructure projects, he is also the point person at DEP for the Green Roof Tax Abatement program, run by the Department of Buildings (DOB).

He enjoys coordinating with other agencies. Implementing green infrastructure requires coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and design consultants. Dahms states, "My colleagues are as enthusiastic as I am about the work we do, which creates an exciting environment." He works alongside Senior Engineers, which gives him the opportunity to see all stages of project development and has allowed him to learn a great amount in a short time. He has worked with different aspects of green infrastructure, including practices in the right-of-way and private property applications through the Green Infrastructure Grant Program.

Dahms believes sustainability is crucial to our environment and aims to make a difference in our city. Dahms thinks green infrastructure is exciting, especially in New York. It is a natural way of managing stormwater and a roadway to beautification. It has been a novel and exciting experience for him here thus far.

Green Jobs in the Field



Ben Malnor

Project Manager, Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction (BEDC), NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Ben Malnor is a project manager for the Civil Design Section of the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction (BEDC). As a project manager, Malnor keeps projects moving by managing their scopes, schedules, and budgets. Under the direction of a project manager, various engineering disciplines (e.g. civil, structural, electrical, and mechanical) work together to produce designs and specifications for DEP's construction projects. "It's cool to be part of such an eclectic group," he says. "We have many veteran designers who are willing to explain their processes and share their knowledge. It's a good environment in which to learn."

Malnor is currently managing a right-of-way bioswale project in Jamaica, Queens, a Priority Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tributary Area. This project will have a direct impact on improving water quality in New York City's waterways by reducing the frequency of CSO events.

Malnor enjoys collaborating with his colleagues, who work on a variety of projects, such as Water for the Future. Water for the Future is an impressive project. There are people doing site design (my in-house group), mechanical and structural design, permitting and planning, tunnel design, conservation projects, and more. It's a robust program and they are doing their best to ensure the availability of NYC's water for future generations."

Green Jobs in the Field



Floren Poliseo

Civil Engineer, Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction (BEDC), NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Floren Poliseo is the Director of Watershed Planning and Modeling for DEP’s Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis (BEPA). She joined DEP in 2010 after working 12 years in the private sector. She completed her Master of Science in Sustainability Management at Columbia University in 2013. In her current role, her focus is stormwater management for NYC and she is planning and implementing the EPA-mandated permit for the City’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

“It is rewarding to be able to provide clean drinking water to nine million New Yorkers, improve water quality in the City’s waterways, and learn how the City’s infrastructure works,” she says. She genuinely enjoys public service, and aims to continue to help improve public infrastructure to ensure its ability to serve communities for many generations to come. “It’s humbling to know that the legacy of the projects and policies I am developing today will exceed my lifetime, and I enjoy the challenge of getting it right. That is the essence of sustainability.”

Looking ahead, she says, “Our efforts in water supply, stormwater, and wastewater management need to better mimic the natural water cycle if they are expected to continue supporting the population. These systems are environmentally connected, and we need to look at them more holistically in practice.” To achieve this, her philosophy is to adapt the City’s current assets to meet new demands by integrating appropriate long-standing engineering principles with new technologies and practices. For example, in developing the new separate storm sewer permit, Floren and her colleagues will evaluate how DEP can build off of what was learned in the combined sewer areas – where volume of stormwater entering the system was the concern, to determine possible adaptations for stormwater-only discharges – where pollutants are the primary concern. “Sustainability isn’t reinventing the wheel; it’s making it more efficient and finding new ways to complement it.”

Poliseo is also part of the global nonprofit Water for People, NYWEA’s Sustainability Committee and Green Infrastructure Task Force, and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure’s Intergovernmental, Nonprofit, and Global Affairs Committee.