

Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

Focus Group #4

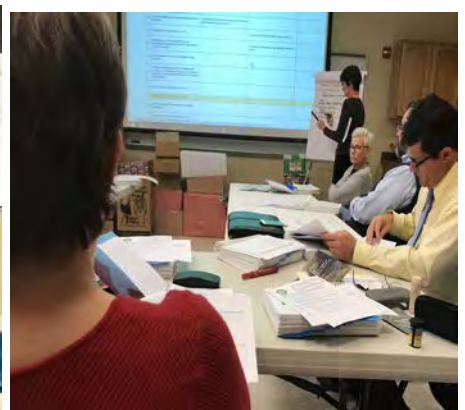
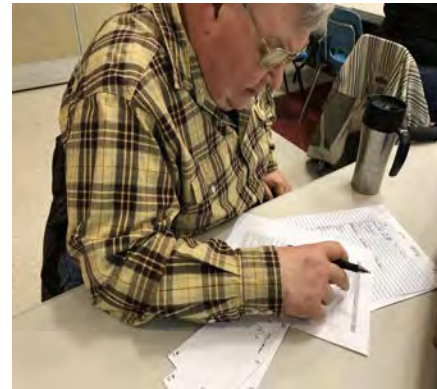
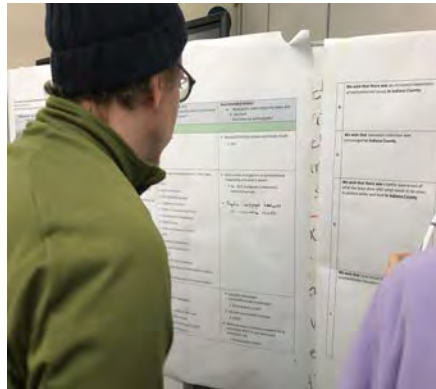




Environmental Restoration & Stewardship Focus Group Contributing Members

Co-Facilitators: Jeff Raykes & Cindy Rogers

- Lynne Alvine
- Tom Falcone
- Barb Hauge
- Linda Jones
- Laurie Lafontaine
- Denise Liggett
- Stacy Long
- Ken Sherwood
- Matt Smith
- John Somonick
- Sara Stewart
- Joe Trimarchi
- Judy Wanchisn
- Cheri Widzowski
- Walter Schroth
- John Dudash
- Tina Perdue
- Eli Long
- Maegan Stump
- Linda Gwinn





Mission

Environmental Stewardship - protection, conservation, & restoration of our environmental resources

Vision

Environmental Restoration involves the study and restoration of ecosystems and habitats degraded, damaged, or destroyed by active human intervention and action. Stewardship extends to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices, including recycling, conservation, and regeneration.



Top 6 Goals/Wish List

1. Improve and Invest in **Environmental Awareness and Education** (33 points) - *Education*
2. Create **Riparian Buffer Zones & Green Corridors** (23 points) - *Education*
3. Establish the Importance of **Recycling** (13 points) - *Education*
4. Demonstrate Effective **Stormwater Management** (8 points) - *Education*
5. Prioritize Jobs/Training related to **Emerging Methods in Environmental Restoration and Stewardship** (6 points) - *Job Creation*
6. Foster **Environmentally -Focused Businesses** (12 points) - *Economic Development*



#1 - Environmental Education & Awareness

- Decision-makers/agencies need to know what Indiana County residents know about the environment and what issues they think are important
- Emphasize environmental education in Indiana County

WHY?

- to increase awareness of the environment and to shift attitudes toward environmental stewardship (protection, conservation, & restoration)



Recommended Action Items

- Surveys
- Environmental Programs & information outreach based on science & facts include farmers, landowners and local residents
- Keep website updated; make sure information is managed & fresh
- Hold series of programs on environmental stewardship (with Indiana County Conservation District, Evergreen Conservancy, watershed groups)
- Start regular newspaper and social media features of conservation efforts
- Increase teachers knowledge about the environment i.e. Sponsor Project Wet and Project Wild Training



#2 - Riparian Buffer Zones & Green Corridors

- Develop more green zones along all streams and waterways in Indiana County

WHY?

- Protect and improve water quality
- Help endangered species
- Create wildlife corridors
- Control erosion and reduce sedimentation



Recommended Action Items

- Create a countywide ordinance/plan for greenway corridors and riparian buffer zones on all waterways, beginning with Black Lick Creek watershed.
- Access funding, available through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Western PA Conservancy, Indiana County Conservation District, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and PA Land Trust, government grants



#3 - Recycling

- increase awareness and practice of recycling in Indiana County

WHY?

- Reduce waste
- Conserve resources



Recommended Action Items

- Pass a county-wide bottle bill for glass & plastic recyclables
- Create a county-wide ordinance for recycling among residents, businesses and institutions
- Create a better visual impact by having trash picked up & recycled
- Study to present pros and cons of recycling for the best economic returns

HOW DOES RECYCLING WORK?

ALUMINUM may be recycled INDEFINITELY



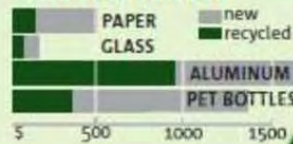
Cans are shredded, washed, baled and sent to the factory. There they are turned into molten metal and recast.

PLASTIC may be recycled MANY TIMES



Plastic recycling is more difficult than other materials. Bottles are cut up, crushed and baled. Bales are extracted and processed.

RECYCLING PAYS OFF



GLASS may be recycled INDEFINITELY



Glass is crushed up and sent to the factory. There it is melted and put in molds to be blown again.

PAPER may be recycled up to 6 TIMES

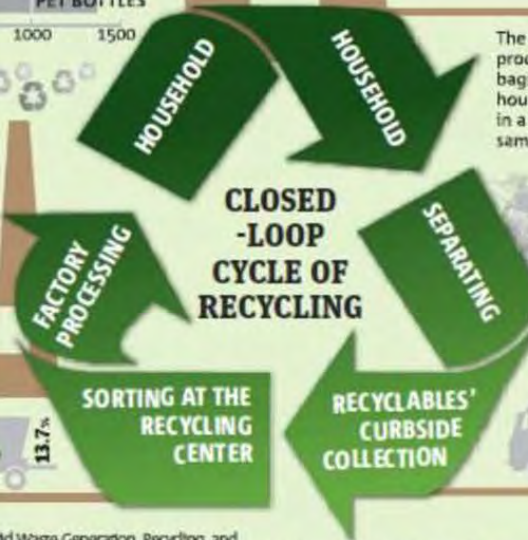


Paper is baled and transported to the paper mill. There it is broken, deinked, repulped and added to the pulp of "virgin" paper.

RECYCLE RATE



CLOSED-LOOP CYCLE OF RECYCLING



The energy used to produce all the plastic bags that a typical household goes through in a year is enough to light that same house for six full months.

WASTE PRODUCED PER PERSON, 2009:



Sources: Europe as a Recycling Society, The European Recycling Map, European Environment Agency, 2010; Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2009, US Environmental Protection Agency; OECD; US Environmental Protection Agency; Plastics – the Facts 2010, PlasticsEurope; WRAP.org.uk, WWF.



#4 - Stormwater Management

- Improve awareness of what has already been done and what needs to be done to protect water and land in Indiana County

WHY?

- To decrease or eliminate flooding
- Protect water, land and property



Recommended Action Items

- County and Municipal governments to adopt stormwater plans
- Educate residents on stormwater best practices
- Stormwater infrastructure maintenance jobs
- Maintenance jobs for AMD treatment ponds and systems



#5 - Jobs/training related to emerging methods

- Make jobs and training available in Indiana County related to emerging methods/technologies

WHY?

- Need well paying jobs supporting environmental stewardship



Recommended Action Items

- Encourage businesses that can install and maintain permeable surfaces, stormwater management, AMD and other green technologies



#6 - Environmentally - Focused Businesses

- Prioritize and encourage environmentally-focused businesses to locate in Indiana County
- Support the creative re-use of existing buildings and brownfield sites in Indiana County

WHY?

- Need professionals, technicians and materials to implement green services
- Preserve open space, farmland & redevelop sites with existing infrastructure and connections to communities e.g. locating new county facilities at the Mall



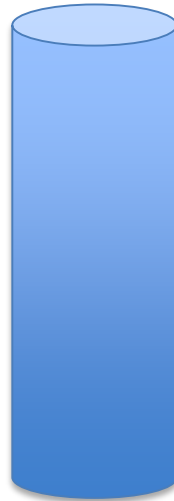
Recommended Action Items

- Produce economic development planning and policy documents that would prioritize and encourage environmentally-focused businesses to locate in Indiana County
- Provide incentives for developers to obtain LEED Green Buildings or other green designations
- Provide incentives to residents and businesses to implement green practices i.e. rain gardens

3 Pillars for Environmental Stewardship



Economic
Development

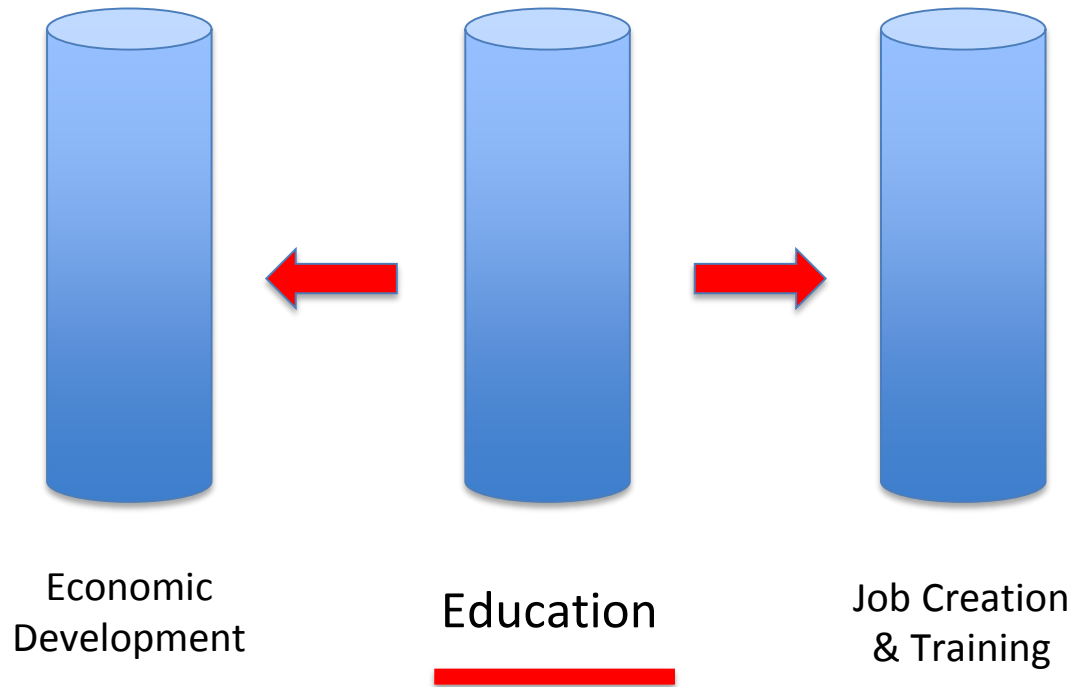


Education

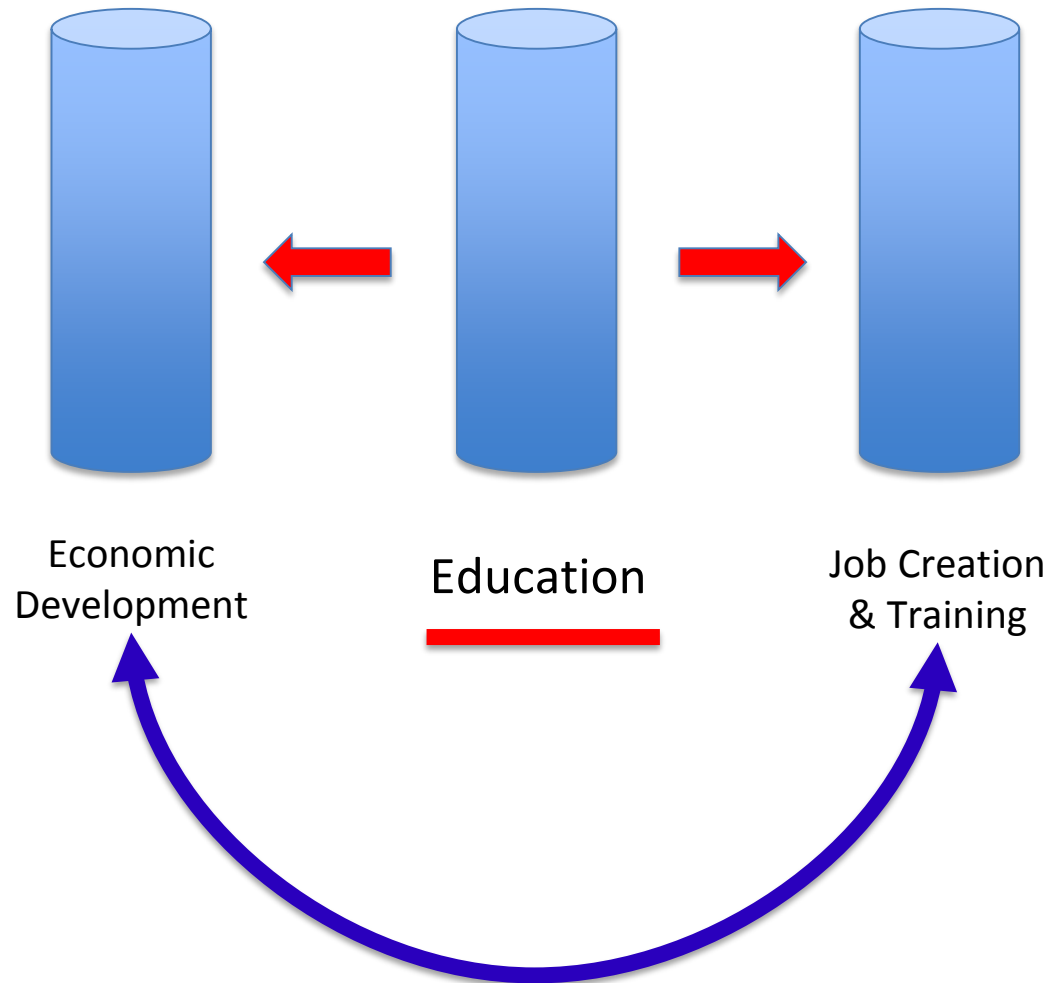


Job Creation
& Training

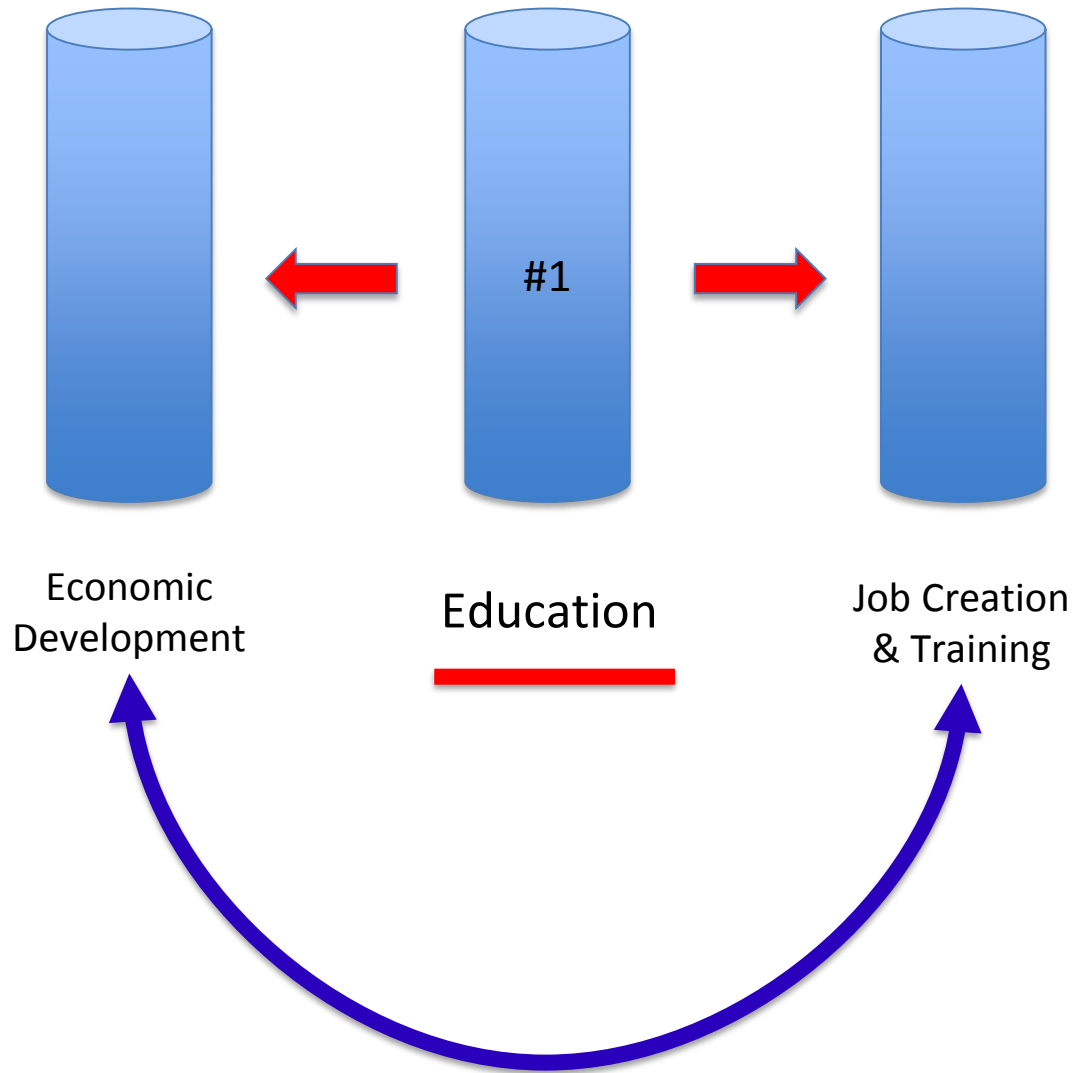
Education is the Foundation to Drive Economic Development & Job Creation



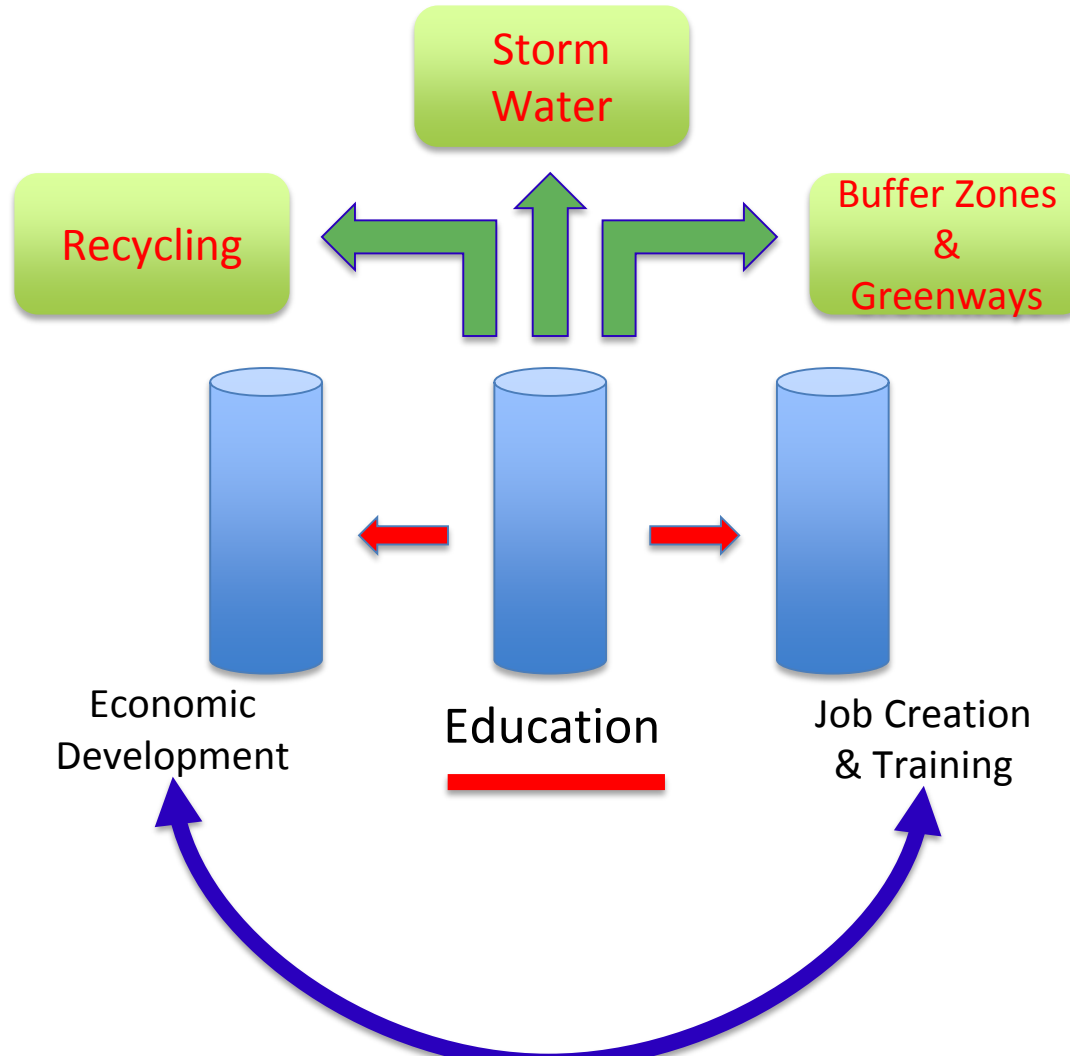
Economic Development & Job Creation & Training Are Interdependent



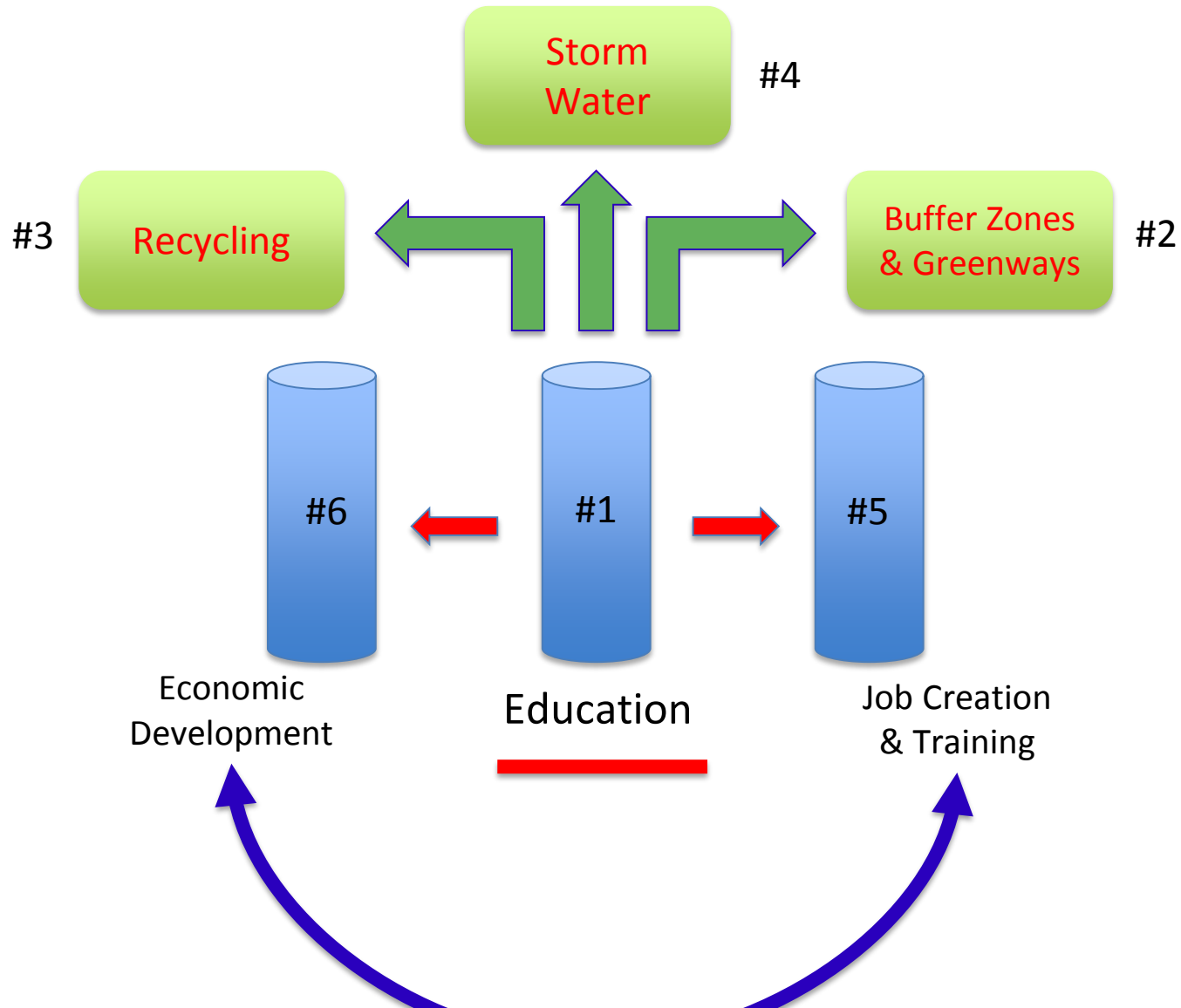
Education-Related Activities are #1



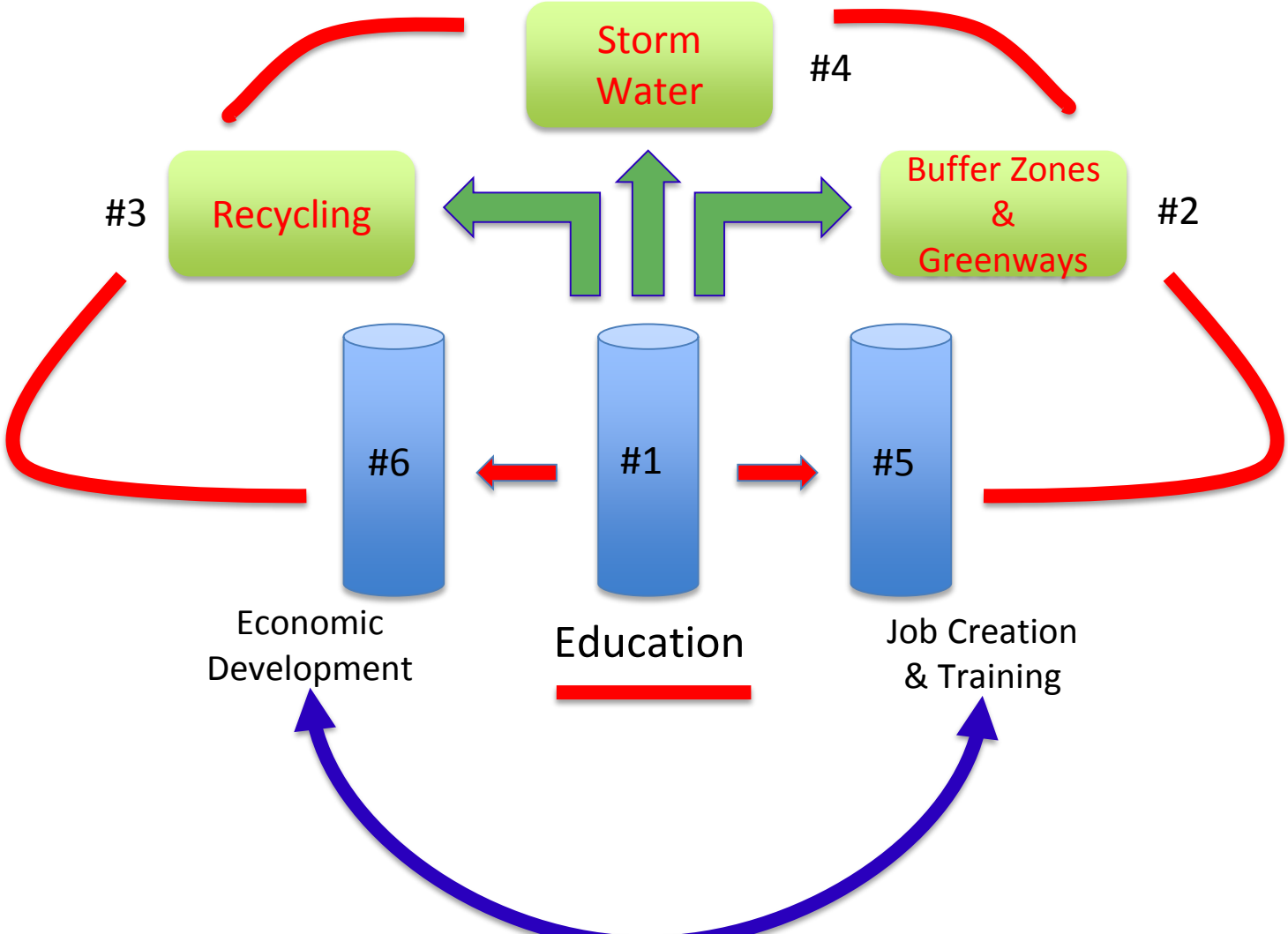
Environmental Education Leads to Other Recommendations



Environmental Education Leads to Other Recommendations



Endpoint: Economic Development & Jobs Coexist with Environmental Stewardship





How do we implement?