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As Flood Risks Intensify, Stormwater Utilities Offer a More Resilient Solution.

The 2017 hurricane season is not yet complete, but Houston's damage from [Hurricane Harvey](#) and Florida's fallout from [Hurricane Irma](#) have already left a severe economic and environmental toll. Yet as disaster turns to recovery in each state, the storms serve as national reminders of resilience challenges facing the [country's most flood-prone areas](#) and the need to help them. [Federal recovery efforts](#) are not only receiving more scrutiny, but state and local strategies are also gaining more attention, including [adaptive measures and investments in resilient infrastructure](#).

Flood risks are not just limited to severe storms, though. The ways in which planners, engineers, and other leaders manage and design cities every day plays a huge part too. [Houston's urban sprawl](#) over the past few decades, for instance, exposed its most vulnerable households to greater dangers. Meanwhile, aging infrastructure systems designed to handle excess flows of water—and even daily rainfall—[failed to protect the environment or mitigate flood risks](#).

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The Brookings Institute

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