

AMERICORP PROJECTS

TYPE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE:

RAIN BARREL

LOCATION:

Lebanon Township Municipal Building, Glen Gardner, New Jersey

ORGANIZATION:

New Jersey AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors Program

DESCRIPTION:

Kelsey Barbella, New Jersey AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador in WMA 8, the North and South Branch Raritan Watershed, has hosted and participated in several rain barrel projects during her 2012-2013 term of service. After assisting Rutgers at one of their "Build Your Own Rain Barrel" workshop, she hosted her first rain barrel workshop with the help of another Watershed Ambassador, Blaire Langston, in celebration of Earth Day. Kelsey partnered with the Lebanon Township Environmental Commission as part of one of their Sustainable Jersey initiatives. Overall, Kelsey designed, facilitated, and oversaw the workshop to give the community the right education and tools needed to conserve water in their local watershed.

IMPACT:

Educated community members about stormwater management, protecting local watersheds, water conservation inside and outside their homes, and the benefits and uses of rain barrels. Those involved were able to construct their own rain barrels to bring home and install. A total of 12 rain barrels were constructed which are estimated to save 16,800 gallons of rainfall a year from stressing our local rivers and streams.

Watershed Ambassadors are available to lead additional workshops in your community. Contact information for your local Ambassador can be found at www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bear/americorps_contact_info.htm

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