



## NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATER EDUCATION & OUTREACH RESOURCES

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### *How can we help you with your water education and outreach efforts?*

The Department offers many services and tools to assist you in your water education and outreach efforts. These include free classroom presentations on water pollution through the Watershed Ambassadors Program, Project WET workshops for educators, WaterSense programs for water conservation, stormwater lessons, and publications.



### *The AmeriCorps NJ Watershed*

*Ambassadors Program* is a community-oriented stewardship program designed to raise awareness about water issues in New Jersey. Through this service program, Watershed Ambassadors are available to make interactive presentations on water topics. Watershed Ambassadors also work with community organizations on partnership projects such

as rain gardens, stream clean-ups, restoration projects and educational events. Watershed Ambassadors also monitor the local rivers using volunteer monitoring protocols. They also provide training on biological and visual assessments in coordination with the *NJ Watershed Watch Network*, the umbrella organization for the state's volunteer water monitors.

### *Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)*

is an internationally renowned program that offers teachers a better understanding about the world's water resources through hands-on, multi-disciplinary lessons. Project WET is a well-rounded series of curriculum and activity guides and associated

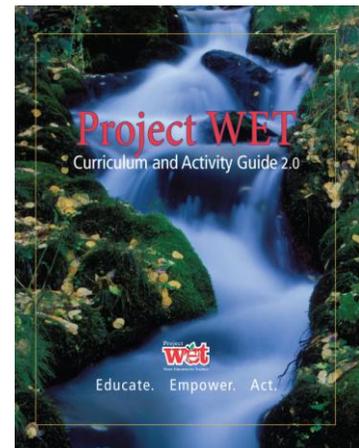
#### ***Why educate about stormwater, nonpoint source pollution and water?***

Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the greatest threats to our ponds, creeks, lakes, wells, streams, rivers, bays, ground water, and the ocean. As stormwater travels through a watershed it picks up pollutants and washes them into the local waterway. These pollutants come from activities such as using too much fertilizer, throwing litter down storm drains or not cleaning up after pets. Simple changes in our lifestyles can make a tremendous difference in the quality of our water resources.

programs that focus on water supply, water quality, water conservation, watersheds, land use planning and wetlands.

Available only through workshops by qualified facilitators, the Project WET Curriculum and Activity guide

provides educators with accurate insight into critical water issues while offering a large selection of creative teaching strategies for the classroom and beyond.



In addition to teacher training workshops, *NJ Project WET Water Festival Program* provides funding to schools for one-day celebrations of water. Students participate in a series of

learning stations that examine different water issues and involve the local community.

**Urban Watershed Education Program** is designed to educate young students living in the Newark Bay Complex and other urban areas with fish advisories about the hazards of eating contaminated fish and help them to discover the beauty of their local waterways. Students who participate in the program sample local recreational fishing opportunities while learning how to be responsible citizens within the watershed. The students experience 3 to 4 days of intense yet enjoyable instruction related to the water pollution, fish advisories and the human connection to their local natural resources.



**Clean Water Rangers** publications are available for educators and can be used in conjunction with other water education lessons. Educators are provided with free coloring books and stickers for their elementary school age students. To order, call 866-DEP-KNOW or email [watershed@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:watershed@dep.state.nj.us).

Stormwater lessons, correlated with NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards for Science, and other resources can be found on the NJ Department of Environmental

Protection website at [www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org). This **CleanWaterNJ.org website** also offers a host of other information and resources on stormwater and nonpoint source pollution. The **NJDEP Seeds website** offers these publications and many other educational resources on the Department's central environmental education web page <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/seeds>.



New Jersey Water Savers is a partnership between the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Department. The NJ



Water Savers have developed and implemented conservation programs that encourage local stakeholders to change their behavior, ultimately saving water. The programs include incentive programs, model ordinance development, consumer targeted water conservation

videos, retrofit programs, outdoor demonstration projects encouraging native plants, rain gardens, rain barrels/ cisterns, and various marketing campaigns. More information can be found at [http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/DWC/NJWS\\_Default.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/DWC/NJWS_Default.html).

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