About Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development

Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development is a program within Cooperative Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. CNRED’s university-based and county colleagues serve as catalysts for positive change by working with Wisconsin communities to address important issues, concerns and opportunities.

To learn more about Cooperative Extension, visit www.uwex.edu/ces.

For more information on Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development Programs, see www.uwex.edu/ces/cnred and visit us on Facebook.

www.uwex.edu/ces/cnred

Community, Natural Resource & Economic Development (CNRED)

Putting university knowledge to work for Wisconsin communities
University research provides the foundation

Backed by University of Wisconsin research, CNRED educators work in partnership with people in county, state, federal and tribal governments, community organizations, volunteers, business and industry. Our outreach programs, research and assistance involve people, communities and organizations in educational experiences that teach them to apply the latest knowledge and technology to local issues and concerns.

With faculty and academic staff in counties and on UW campuses, CNRED gives Wisconsin citizens access to university research and knowledge about:

Economic Development—Enhancing local economic health, business development, stable employment and quality of life.

Leadership and Organizational Development—Facilitating collaboration, local leadership development and community-based problem-solving.

Strengthening Local Governments—Offering educational resources for civic engagement and partnerships in local government decision-making.

Natural Resources—Delivering training and education on environmental resources, energy management and land use.

CNRED educational programs support community-based needs, including:

- Economic development
- Local leadership training
- Public policy issues
- Natural resources education
- Land-use planning
- Shared decision-making and consensus building
- Access to information technologies

Centers and programs focus on local concerns

Our educators collaborate with communities, bringing skills and expertise to address local issues.

- Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED)—CCED has a long tradition of supporting the needs of Wisconsin citizens to enhance the quality of their lives and to put in place contemporary and sustainable economic development solutions.
- Center for Land Use Education (CLUE)—CLUE creates learning opportunities for communities to help them make sound land use decisions that result in a sustainable Wisconsin. CLUE houses the UW-Extension Lakes Program which is part of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. The partnership helps protect our state waters and supports stewardship of Wisconsin lakes.
- Center for Watershed Science and Education and Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center (CWGC)—This center assists citizens and communities by conducting programs in drinking water testing and safety; groundwater quality and sustainability; lake, stream, and watershed health; professional education; and water resources research. The CWGC helps Wisconsin citizens and governments manage the groundwater resource wisely through education, public information, applied research and technical assistance.
- Environmental Resources Center (ERC)—The Environmental Resources Center offers state-of-the-art applied research, communication and education focused on the “human dimensions” of environmental issues.
- Local Government Center—The Local Government Center provides focus, coordination and leadership to UW System educational programs for local government, and expands the research and knowledge base for local government education.
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC)—SHWEC works with business and community leaders to exploit the economic and environmental benefits of increased efficiency in materials and energy use, including recycling, energy efficiency and green design, pollution prevention and resource conservation.
- Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (LSNERR)—The LSNERR is located on the St. Louis Estuary in Superior, Wisconsin and is led by Cooperative Extension and many partners with support from NOAA. It conducts research, education and management activities addressing estuary and coastal Great Lakes resource issues.
- Campus-based specialists—Subject area specialists based on UW System campuses provide applied research support for CNRED’s network of county-based educators.

CNRED programs are a great public investment

CNRED educators work with partners to coordinate services and programs and share resources and expertise, making public programs not only more cost-efficient, but more effective.

CNRED programs are an excellent public investment in initiatives that are important to communities. Through their efforts, CNRED educators strengthen the community’s capacity to meet pressing needs, with the end result being a better quality of life for Wisconsin residents.