

Extension Resources for Volunteer Monitoring Programs

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Citizen volunteer water quality monitoring programs:

- Educate local residents about the science behind water quality and watershed protection;
- Provide valuable data to help target areas for protection or restoration, and information for assessing whether past efforts were effective;
- Engage the community, increasing participation in water resource protection and restoration efforts; and
- Assist researchers by monitoring innovative methods of environmental protection and restoration.



New England Regional Monitoring Collaborative (NERMC)

Administered by the New England Water Program, NERMC resources focus on specific monitoring methods to facilitate watershed-based monitoring. NERMC offers basic training materials (videos and manuals) and workshops designed to train watershed monitoring groups to carry out four types of assessments:

- *Watershed Natural Resources Inventory,*
- *Habitat Assessments,*
- *Benthic Macroinvertebrate Assessment,*
- *On-site Nonpoint Source Pollution Evaluation* ('Following the Flow')

http://www.usawaterquality.org/NewEngland/Focus_Areas/volunteer/extension/
 for more information.



Guide for Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs

The Guide for Growing incorporates extensive references and links to materials from Cooperative Extension and other programs, to provide a comprehensive document to help support volunteer monitoring efforts. Guide modules include:

- *Why Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Makes Sense for CSREES;*
- *Getting Started - Finding Resources in the Guide for Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs;*
- *Designing Your Monitoring Strategy: Basic Questions and Resources to Help Guide You;*
- *Training Volunteer Water Quality Monitors Effectively;*
- *Assuring Quality Data;*
- *Volunteer Management and Program Support;*
- *Outreach Tools;* and
- *Finding Support and Funding for Local Efforts.*

See <http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/> for more information.



These resources provide local institutions (state agency, university or non-profit service providers) and community organizations with critical tools to support volunteer monitoring efforts. Through monitoring citizens and communities improve their knowledge of the status and factors affecting their local water quality and the steps needed to improve or protect it. This knowledge engages stakeholders in programs related to changes needed at the farm, home, camp and community level to ensure water quality protection.

Please contact program coordinators at emh@uri.edu or kris.stepenuck@ces.uwex.edu to inquire about workshop opportunities or to schedule a workshop in your area. We are particularly interested presenting workshops at regional conferences, and can tailor training modules to meet your needs.