

# School Education and Outreach

Holly Denham  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



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1

# School Education and Outreach

There are 2 directions you can go when implementing this BMP:

- Programs and educational materials aimed at teachers.
- Programming aimed directly at students.



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2

## Lessons and Materials for Teachers



The materials are more likely to be actively used by teachers if they also receive training.



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3

- Grade appropriate with background information provided.
- Correlated to the NC Essential Standards for the grades targeted.

## Teacher Trainings



- There are many great resources and trainings already available, including Project WET (Water Education for Teachers).
- Coordination with schools and/or school districts will ensure attendance.
- You may be able to outsource the training to Soil and Water Conservation District staff or the NC Project WET State Coordinator if your staff is willing to coordinate with the schools and take care of logistics.

## Things to Consider

- Providing teachers with training, materials and resources that are easily implemented into the classroom will greatly increase their use.
- Keeping in touch with teachers a few times a year increases the likelihood that they will continue to use the curriculum.
- Evaluate your effectiveness with a survey, pre/post test or other tool.
- Try to make your workshops FREE if possible!



## Working Directly With Students

All conservation messages should be things the kids can do themselves (i.e. turning off the water when they brush their teeth).



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6

- If you want to do activities directly with students, you may find taking a few environmental education training workshops like Methods of EE helpful. This training is available through the NC Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs. Project WET is also offered throughout the state. You can find a workshop near you through the Office of EE's workshop calendar.
- All programming should be aimed at the children themselves and NOT indirectly at their parents!

## Festivals and Special Events

- Hosting one large event, such as a water festival for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the service area, will get you a large audience at one time.
- You may want to consider doing a presentation for the whole school, perhaps with a skit or mascot.



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7

- Generally, schools are more lenient for meeting state essential standards for events.
- Learning is more difficult to gauge for one-time messaging from festivals and presentations.
- Large events are a lot of work to put on but can joyfully engage utility staff with the general public.

## Case Studies

### Greensboro:

- In-house staff
- Festivals
- Partnerships
- Funding



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8

- Greensboro DWR staff directly provide youth education in the form of classroom presentations, special events and programs.
- Host a water festival for 300 fifth graders each year that highlight the importance of water while visiting 8 different hands-on water activity sites.
- Greensboro DWR partnered with Kathleen Clay Edwards Library to offer Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), Wonders of Wetlands, and Planning of Wetlands. DWR pays for all Greensboro teachers to attend.
- They also collaborate with NC Cooperative Extension in a poster contest for Grades 1-4. There are 2 categories, 1. Water Quality and 2. Water Quantity.

# Contact Information

**QUESTIONS?**

Holly Denham  
Water Supply Planning Branch  
NC Division of Water Resources  
919-707-9009  
[holly.denham@ncdenr.gov](mailto:holly.denham@ncdenr.gov)



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9