



Title: New England Region Water Quality Program

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Organization: URI

State: RI **Region:** New England

Year of Funding: 2000

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: The goal of the New England Program is to improve water quality management through educational knowledge and extension programming that emerges from a research base. Extension programs have a unique role in the Region that complement our partners' efforts. We use state of the art approaches to tailor our programs to the unique attributes of a given watershed and the concerns of communities and producers.

Objectives: Enhance integration of water quality efforts within the New England region (EPA Region One). Increase the accessibility of research, education, and extension resources of the Land Grant university system to Federal, State and local water quality improvement efforts. Facilitate multi-partner efforts that minimize duplication of effort and leverage multiple funding sources into a collaborated effort. Enhance communication and coherence in meeting time lines and achieving progress toward place-based water quality goals. Improve the capacity of CSREES to draw on resources throughout the nation to address water quality issues.

Methods: Our approach creates and implements an effective New England-wide, multi-partnered, water quality program in four areas. This approach works through a multi-tiered structure that consists of a regional coordinating committee, a steering committee, and focus area co-captains. The program builds on existing strengths in the following areas: Volunteer water quality monitoring; Community-based watershed protection; Agricultural best management practices; Residential pollution prevention.

Partnerships: We engage key stakeholders in the process including: State Water Quality Coordinators, Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, New England Federal Partners, and local community organizations and municipalities, among others.

Research: The Project's research liaison generates linkages and communication with relevant research within New England. The Research Liaison works with the Program Managers of relevant NRI, EPA Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance, EPA STAR Program, the National Science Foundation, NOAA, and CSREES research programs, and individual state Agriculture Experiment Station Directors to identify New England based research projects that are related to our extension efforts.

Resources: Develop new educational resources, conduct training, incorporate research findings, share successful methods and tools, develop partnerships with national and regional agencies and organizations, and engage in locally-based projects to develop insights and refine activities to strengthen outcomes throughout the region.

Results: Each New England focus area has a strategy for outcome based programs and work is planned using the "Logic Model" to develop an outcome based set of actions and outputs.



The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.

