



Title: Water Quality Coordination in US EPA Region 2

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Email:

Organization:

State: **Region:**

Year of Funding:

Theme:

Situation: US EPA Region 2 is a unique political jurisdiction that does not follow natural geographic boundaries (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands). There has been limited coordination between the land grant universities and EPA on water quality. Coordination was generally limited to individual working relationships among faculty and staff on grant or other topic-specific projects, and university faculty serving on topic-specific EPA or USDA work groups and advisory committees.

Objectives: Dialogue/collaboration among land grants (Rutgers, NJ; Cornell, NY; and the Universities of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), EPA Region 2 and other government and university stakeholders involved in water quality. Identify and address issues that exist in many areas of the region that would benefit from regional collaboration. Addressing animal waste and onsite wastewater treatment system management, watershed and estuary educational programming, and opportunities for nutrient trading.

Methods: Convene annual regional meeting to identify water quality issues and build working relationships; support state water quality coordination; convene issue-specific meetings and electronic dialogue; and carryout several regional topic-specific projects to address issues and to strengthen ongoing partner/stakeholder coordination. Maintain regional website and publish results. Close working relationship with EPA Region 2 facilitated by regional coordinator also serving as liaison to EPA Region 2.

Partnerships: Working relationship with EPA is emphasized and facilitated by the liaison participating in EPA programs, and by bringing together EPA staff and university faculty when opportunities arise. State and local government partnerships are also advanced.

Research: The project engages members of the research, education and outreach communities within the land grants to gain their varying perspectives on water quality issues, and incorporates research, education and outreach elements into regional projects, as needed, to effectively address key water quality issues.

Resources: Leveraged funds and in-kind support from EPA to partially fund liaison position. Additionally, university faculty have been made aware and taken advantage of funding opportunities, building on working relations created through the regional project.



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