



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Protecting Water Quality in Rural Landscapes: A Comprehensive Community Nonpoint Source Education Program. Program Highlights: Using local demonstration sites as a tool for Extension education, outreach and evaluation

Sustaining landscapes, water quality and the water balance are of the utmost importance in developing watersheds. Our University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Home*A*Syst and GreenShare Programs deliver a comprehensive education program aimed at pollution prevention best management practices (BMPs) that encompass the concerns posed by landowners and land users within North Kingstown, Rhode Island. North Kingstown exemplifies rural southern New England--“mixed land use” watersheds and serves as a pilot community where several Extension education, outreach and evaluation methods are being implemented.

Project Objectives include:

1. Develop and deliver educational programs that teach the dynamics of the water cycle, watersheds and aquifers within North Kingstown, Rhode Island enabling residents to protect the quality of their water resources.
2. Increase the public's knowledge of BMPs, pollution prevention control systems and of personal actions they can take to conserve and protect watersheds utilizing a variety of educational and outreach methods.
3. Establish local landscape demonstration sites showcasing a variety of BMPs.
4. Conduct professional training programs for the Rhode Island Green Industry and retail landscape center employees.
5. Develop a comprehensive media strategy that delivers educational materials and program information to citizens of North Kingstown and statewide.
6. Strengthen existing URI CE Programs by developing new program materials and outreach methods and sharing expertise and resources through increased collaboration.
7. Strengthen the New England Region Water Quality Program by extending materials, training and lessons learned to our colleagues.

This poster will highlight the use of local demonstration sites as a tool for implementing Extension education, outreach and evaluation methods and for achieving the Project Objectives.

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