



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Resources Available for Volunteer Monitoring Programs

Volunteer monitoring can be a tremendous asset to water quality protection efforts. A variety of resources are available to assist in developing new programs or expanding existing programs. This poster will introduce two Cooperative Extension efforts – Cooperative State Research Education Extension Service (CSREES) Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project Guide for Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs, and the tools of the New England Regional Monitoring Collaborative (NERMC), which is affiliated with the New England Water Program.

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;
- How to use the Guide to 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.

The 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:

- 1) *Watershed Natural Resources Inventory,*
- 2) *Habitat Assessments,*
- 3) *Benthic Macroinvertebrate Assessment,*

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