



Building a Support System for CSREES Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Efforts



Volunteer Monitoring & NEMO Partnerships for Watershed Protection

<http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/>

<http://nemonet.uconn.edu/>

Volunteer water quality monitoring programs help capture the excitement and attention of local communities while building capacity to understand environmental data. Incorporating volunteer data into geospatial technologies, web and print formats through NEMO programs facilitates local decision making and development of effective public policy.

Volunteer Monitoring Offers NEMO:

- Source of credible data
- More comprehensive data
- Greater monitoring frequency
- Larger number of sites monitored
- Local knowledge
- Enhances local stewardship
- Gain Support for your efforts
- Cost effective (not cost free)



NEMO Offers Volunteer Monitoring:

- Innovative data analysis and presentation tools
- Increased opportunities for results to be reported and used
- Data turned into a story – and public policy
- Key resource people review the story and results
- Result reporting is tailored to specific audiences
- Monitoring is used to assess progress



Successful Volunteer Monitoring Programs:

- Follow sound scientific protocols
- Have clear monitoring goals and questions
- Have written study design
- Provide clear documentation of all instructions
- Have appropriate monitoring scope and complexity for volunteer capabilities
- Have QA appropriate to data use

Volunteer Monitoring & NEMO Can Make A Difference!

- Identify & solve problems locally
- Raise awareness and understanding of impacts from public policy
- Provide information on places where little other data exists
- Create an informed constituency
- Increase adoption by citizens of recommended best management practices (BMPs) for water quality protection



Volunteer Programs Assure Quality through:

- Training and more training
- Repetition
- Routine sampling
- Monitoring multiple indicators
- QA/QC field and laboratory testing
- Adhering to established procedures



Understand the goals and data quality objectives of programs in order to assess the applicability of their data to your needs.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project:

- Identify and link Extension volunteer monitoring programs
- Develop training materials that incorporate research results to support and strengthen Extension volunteer monitoring knowledge-base and efforts
- Provide training to regional, state and local program coordinators to strengthen their capacity to incorporate volunteer monitors in addressing their priorities
- Develop and establish Internet and web-based tools for data and program management
- Increase collaboration and cooperation with other agencies through the establishment of a strong support system

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