



Building a Support System for CSREES Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Efforts

Expanding the *Guide for Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs*

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Volunteer water quality monitoring programs can be tremendous assets to water quality protection. Linking volunteer monitoring to outreach and education efforts benefits communities *and* produces valuable information. This poster describes one of the resources available to assist the development of new programs or expansion of existing programs.

Guide for Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs:

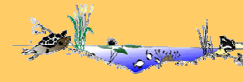
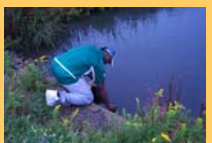
- ❖ Produced in hard copy format and electronically as PDFs with live, and regularly updated, links to on-line resources posted on project website: www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer;
- ❖ Distills knowledge and advice from factsheets, guides, manuals, and websites from a wide spectrum of agencies and organizations nationwide;
- ❖ Incorporates frequent references and links to materials from Cooperative Extension and other programs; and
- ❖ Provides a comprehensive document to help support CSREES-affiliated volunteer monitoring efforts.



Additional modules will be developed; topics may include:

- Surface Water Bacterial Monitoring Methods & Issues
- Private Well Sampling and Education
- Monitoring Environmental Restoration
- Sharing Data with Decision Makers
- Managing Water Quality Data with Databases

What other topics should be addressed??



Initial *Guide* modules include:

- Building Credibility: Quality Assurance and Quality Control for Volunteer Monitoring
- Why Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Makes Sense for CSREES
- Getting Started: Finding Resources in the *Guide for Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs*
- Designing Your Monitoring Strategy: Basic Questions and Resources to Help Guide You
- Training Volunteer Water Quality Monitors Effectively
- Volunteer Management and Program Support
- Outreach Tools
- Finding Support and Funding for Local Efforts



Why work with volunteers?

- Gain support for other water quality programs
- Help educate local community
- Source of credible data
- More comprehensive data
- Greater monitoring frequency
- Larger number of sites monitored
- Local knowledge
- Enhances local stewardship
- Cost effective



Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project:

- ❖ Enhanced networking, communication and assessment of Extension volunteer monitoring programs;
- ❖ Improved knowledge-base of Extension-volunteer monitoring programs through the acquisition, synthesis and transmission of current research in the field;
- ❖ Increased stakeholder involvement through expanded volunteer opportunities by strengthening state and local capacity for Extension voluntary monitoring programs; and
- ❖ Strengthened regional capacity to incorporate volunteer monitoring to address programmatic priorities.

www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/

This material is based upon work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, US Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2004-51130-03099. Contribution #4078 of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station. Contact information: Elizabeth Herron, emh@uri.edu, 401-874-4552