

RCE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM EXPANDS ITS PARTNERSHIPS

As the RCE Water Resources Program grows, we continue to attempt to leverage our efforts and resources with various organizations throughout the region. To this end, we have begun working closely with EPA's Office of Research and Development in Edison, New Jersey and with New Jersey Sea Grant College Program located in Fort Hancock, New Jersey on Sandy Hook.

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Evaluation of Infiltration Best Management Practices was signed between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-Office of Research and Development-National Risk Management Laboratory-Water Supply and Water Resources Division-Urban Watershed Management Branch and Rutgers University. The purpose of this MOU is to undertake research on infiltration-based stormwater best management practices (BMPs). In general, EPA and Rutgers intend to focus on the soil-water interactions and selected stressors binding to media proposed for use in biofiltration applications. The work is anticipated to include a series of laboratory experiments supporting larger-scale, controlled-condition engineering studies. EPA and Rutgers intend to design, execute, and publish the results of research undertaken to quantitatively describe the interactions between selected environmental stressors in stormwater and the soil matrix under various conditions likely to exist in the subsurface.

EPA intends to provide unique facilities that better facilitate the execution of the experiments, hardware needed to execute the experiments, laboratory space and equipment to support the analysis of collected samples, technician support through the EPA on-site contractor to execute the experiments and analyze samples, quality assurance oversight, and professional staff efforts to better assure publication and distribution of the results. Rutgers intends to assist EPA in establishing apparatus for laboratory and pilot-scale experiments. Rutgers also intends to provide students and professional staff to help execute the experimental procedures including establishing experimental conditions, sample collection, sample analysis, and data management. Furthermore, Rutgers intends to prepare articles for publication in the peer-reviewed literature, as well as presentations at professional and academic symposia.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) and Rutgers University for Sea Grant Extension Services. NJMSC manages the New Jersey Sea Grant College Program (NJSGCP), one of 30 national Sea Grant college programs and implements New Jersey Sea Grant's mission to foster stewardship and wise-management of the region's coastal resources. The goal of the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program (NJSCEP), the outreach unit of the NJSGCP, is to provide effective two-way communication between university researchers who provide new information and technology related to the wise-use of marine coastal resources, and user groups that benefit from the utilization of coastal resources and in turn provide a vehicle for coastal resource users to relay problems and needs to the research community. Rutgers will assist the NJSGEP in providing Sea Grant Water Resources services to the citizens of New Jersey on issues that relate to watershed management and sustainable communities by jointly funding a Program Associate.

The New Jersey coast has been an important natural and economic resource for years, providing recreation, port commerce and tourism. It is also home to a vast and vital marine ecosystem that provides a habitat for precious aquatic and wetland life. However, New Jersey, like other coastal states, is facing new challenges in keeping these valuable resources in a favorable condition for the future. According to the PEW Charitable Trusts report entitled, America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change, management of upland water resources is an important step towards "healthy, productive and resilient marine ecosystems for present and future generations." Urban development, suburban sprawl, agriculture and other modified land uses will continue to be major contributors to waterway degradation in New Jersey unless comprehensive action is taken to address their impact. Watershed best management practices that are currently being implemented in upland watersheds and coastal zones will ultimately have a beneficial impact on receiving bays, estuaries and oceans. A partnership between New Jersey Sea Grant and Land Grant efforts is an inevitable step towards reaching the goal of improving coastal ecosystem health. For more information, please contact Chris Obropta at obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu.



TRAINING WORKSHOP: How to Create Watershed Restoration and Protection Plans

WHERE:

Rutgers EcoComplex
1200 Florence-Columbus Rd.
Bordentown, NJ 08505
<http://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu>



WHEN:

January 19th, 2007
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Representatives from watershed organizations, local government, state government, private industry and other stakeholder groups within a watershed.



Agenda includes:

- Developing a nine item plan
- A talk on the USEPA perspective
- Case studies
- Keynote speaker
- Continental breakfast and lunch included with \$35 registration fee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

VISIT: <http://water.rutgers.edu>
CALL: Cheryl at (732) 932-3482

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