

New York State Water Resources Institute



Mandate

- In accord with its [federal and state law](#), the Water Resources Institute goal is to promote the solution of water resource problems by engaging research, educational and outreach resources of the New York State academic community.

Mission

- [Increase](#) local government officials' awareness and understanding of the state's water resource management problems;
- [Assist](#) in the development of public strategies to protect public health;
- [Work](#) with key agencies to adopt and implement programs at the local level;
- [Develop](#) innovative and effective informational and training techniques to assist communities;
- [Pursue](#) the education and training of scientists and outreach activities for disseminating information; and
- [Provide](#) technical assistance relating to the state's water resources.

Audience

- Local and state government staff
- University faculty and students
- Local elected officials
- General public

Funding

- Grants and contracts — \$300,000 - \$1,300,000 per year
 - Cornell University — \$75,000 per year
 - US Department of Interior — \$20,000 - \$100,000 per year
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PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- ***Phosphorus and Pathogen Reduction***

Watershed Agricultural Program in the New York City Watersheds.

Since 1990, the Institute has fostered supporting research with total funds exceeding \$7 million. Principal components of the research, with a large number of faculty and students working in interdisciplinary teams, include:

- Hydrological investigations
- Sources and fate of pathogens
- Crop and soil management
- Monitoring and modeling studies
- Farm economics
- Animal nutrition
- Sources and fate of phosphorus

Delaware County Action Plan (DCAP) — Comprehensive Strategy for Phosphorus Reductions to the Cannonsville Basin in the New York City Watersheds. DCAP:

- Is a unique, locally-based undertaking to meet the economic and technical challenge of strict water quality requirements,
- Establishes an institutional multi-governmental framework with the partners to the New York City Watershed Agreement and other principal stakeholders, and
- Encourages cooperation with state and watershed interests to extend its methods and understanding elsewhere.



- ***Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)***

- Places New York State in the forefront of national efforts to help farmers identify and address agricultural nonpoint source pollution;
- Helps farmers meet the challenge of changing environmental standards designed to protect water supplies;
- Voluntary participation includes approximately 6,000 farms in the multitiered planning and implementation process; and
- Funding is provided as incentives to adopt best practices to protect water quality.



PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- ***Federal Water Resources Research Act***

Since the mid 1960s, the Institute has received annual funding to support applied research, academic education and public information dissemination. Funds are distributed through competition open to faculty in New York institutions of higher education. In the last five years, 34 faculty have been supported in 23 research projects.

In recent years, the NYS Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee established research topics based on Committee work group deliberations, and in FY2001 the US Environmental Protection Agency and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation approved an additional amount of Clean Water Act nonpoint source funding to be awarded through the same mechanisms.

- ***Education, Training and Outreach***

Hudson River Estuary Program

This unique, regional partnership is designed to protect conserve, restore and enhance the estuary. The Hudson River's productivity and diversity of natural resources sustain a wide array of present and future human benefits. It is a jewel among river basins, with a rich heritage.



The Institute serves the Estuary Program's environmental education and local technical assistance activities. Institute staff stationed in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regional office specialize in environmental interpretation and tributary watershed management. They work closely with nonprofit and local government organizations to apply the State's technical and financial resources to meet local and regional needs.

Pesticides Management, Education and Training

In an environmental context, pesticides remain a public high priority. State agencies and public groups are diligently promoting understanding of pesticide used for all purposes: pesticide applicators are trained to understand water and other environmental risks; and the State conducts an extensive public education program. This education and training is supported by extensive studies of the use of pesticides and their subsequent fate in the environment.



Project WET: New York Program

This K-12 program goal is to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources through the development and dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids and the establishment of state and internationally sponsored Project WET programs.



Guiding objectives are: keeping abreast of research; developing publications; providing leadership, instruction and training; networking and partnership to increase awareness; evaluation to continually improve the program; and recognition to people and organizations for their water education efforts.

Institute staff stationed in NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Education Centers assist in developing, extending and improving water educational programs. The Institute and staff serve on a New York State Water Education Team.

Principal Partners

- NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs
- Catskill Watershed Corporation
- Watershed Agricultural Council
- National Institutes for Water Resources
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts

**New York State Water Resources Institute
established by the
Federal Water Resource Research Act, 1964, Section 102(1)
and
An Act of the State of New York, 1987**

For more information contact:

New York State Water Resources Institute



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