



The Watershed Alliance

Communicating the shared responsibility in protecting our watersheds and preventing water pollution through environmental monitoring.



Students use a kick-net to sample for macroinvertebrates.

What is the Watershed Alliance?

The Watershed Alliance makes it possible for students to bring the classroom into the outdoors and learn about the watershed in which they live.

Students examine the local factors that affect runoff, conduct hands-on aquatic field investigations, analyze their results, and share their data and other watershed information locally.

Aquatic Field Investigations

Students investigate and monitor land-based indicators that are impacting the environment of local rivers and the quality of life within the Lake Champlain Basin. These aquatic investigations include habitat, stability/erosion of the streambank, odor, water color, debris, land use, and possible pollution sources.

Physical indicators that determine the health of the river are monitored, including water temperature, the presence of *E. coli* bacteria, the amount of dissolved oxygen, phosphate concentration, and/or identification of benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling animals).

Analyzing Data

Students analyze, display, and manipulate watershed data collected during field

investigations and make decisions on the health of their watershed. This information is used to generate action plans to help restore impacted areas or to design a

presentation to heighten awareness of environmental issues at the local level.



Q: Why should my class/school take advantage of the Watershed Alliance?

A: This program fulfills the Board of **Regents Learning Standard #4** of the Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum.

Key Idea 7: “Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the physical and living environment”.

Performance Indicators:

7.2c: Overpopulation by any species impacts the environment due to the increased use of resources. Human activities can bring about environmental degradation through resource acquisition, urban growth, land-use decisions, waste disposal, etc.

7.2d: ... Pollution has cumulative ecological effects such as acid rain, global warming, or ozone depletion. The survival of living things on our planet depends on the conservation and protection of Earth’s resources.

The Board of Regents states that “students learn most effectively when they have a central role in the discovery process”, and recommend that students conduct an investigation of a local environment affected by human activities. The Watershed Alliance can help you organize an investigation of an aquatic ecosystem to provide students with hands-on environmental monitoring techniques to help them understand the factors that affect the environment.

The Watershed Alliance is a partnership of:



For more information, please contact:

The Watershed Alliance

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