



Residential Water-Use Project 2004

Thank you for participating in this water-use project. This project is part of a study

to understand water use in the Seacoast area of New Hampshire, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, NH Geological Survey, NH Coastal Program, and the NH Department of Environmental Services.

Objective

Evaluate the patterns of indoor and outdoor domestic water use associated with family attitudes on the availability and cost of water and interest in water conservation.

Benefit

The information gathered from the survey and data-collection activities will supplement metered domestic-use data obtained directly from community water systems. In exchange for participating, families will become more familiar with where their water comes from, how they use it, and how they can conserve it.

Who may participate?

- Students of all Middle Schools in the NH Seacoast area and their families
- Anyone interested in water use in New Hampshire.

Visit the Project Web site <http://nh.water.usgs.gov/CurrentProjects/seacoast/>
click on Middle School Project

This packet includes

- **Confidential Residential Water-Use Survey** This Survey can be completed on-line at the Web site <http://des.nh.gov/Survey/WaterUse>
- **Student data collection activities**
- **Additional Activities** on how to summarize information from survey and data collection activities.



Contact Information:

For questions about the survey, contact Marilee Horn, USGS Hydrologist, at 603-226-7806 or by E-mail at mhorn@usgs.gov

**Please return all paper copies of the survey and summary data-collection sheets
NO LATER THAN May 1, 2004 to**

Marilee Horn,
USGS
361 Commerce Way
Pembroke, NH 03275



To Participating Teachers:

Instructions

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this important water resources research! We are excited to be working with you and your students. The following explains the purpose of the accompanying packet and outlines what is expected of you and your students. There are two **required** parts of this project:

1. An informal survey to be completed by students with the help of their parents.
2. Data collection by students and their families of actual water use in their households for 4 weeks between February and April 24, 2004.
IMPORTANT: Weeks do not have to be consecutive and do not necessarily have to be the same for the entire class.

Resources Provided

The following resources are provided to complete these two parts of the project:

Residential Water Use Survey—The **Survey** should be completed by students with the help of their parents and returned to you. If you prefer, students may opt to fill out the **Survey** on-line at <http://des.nh.gov/survey/wateruse> instead of completing a paper copy. You may want students who fill out the **Survey** on-line to print a copy of their answers when they are done. To do this, they should follow the on-line directions for printing their answers.

Student Data Collection Activities—These activities include data collection **Summary Sheets** that are to be completed by students daily during the 4 chosen weeks. Once you have collected all the **Summary Sheets** from your class, please return them grouped by class. If students fill in the purpose of water use on their data-collection sheets, then send them in along with the Summary Sheets. This information will be useful to the project analysis.

IMPORTANT TO PROJECT: To allow the scientist who will be analyzing these data to match actual water use with the answers given in the **Survey**, it is critical that the each student's address be included on every Summary Sheet.

NOTE: The sooner the **Residential Water-Use Survey** results and the data-collection **Summary Sheets** are *returned* to Marilee Horn, the sooner the compiled data can be returned to you and your classes.

Upon receipt of your completed forms, we will send you a *Conserve Water Educator's Guide*.

Other items included in this packet are:

“Dear Parents” letter–Feel free to use this letter to explain to parents what is being asked of their student and their family. Contact information for one of the researchers is also included in case anyone has any questions. There is a space for you to fill in the due date that you expect things to be returned to you so that you can get them back to us by May 1, 2004

Water-Use Activities and Optional Questions–This section includes optional activities and questions where classes can take their data and compile it to determine the average amount of water used per person, look for a relation between attitudes of water use and actual water use, and learn more about reading water meters and your community water system.

Coastal Watershed Map–This map shows the entire study area for this project. The boundaries of this map are watershed boundaries, thus any water falling on this area of land drains to a river or stream that drains to New Hampshire’s coast.

U.S. Geological Survey Watershed Poster–This poster is from ‘*Water Use in New Hampshire: An Activities Guide for Teachers.*’ The guide book contains information and worksheets designed for grades 4-6 and is available on the Web at <http://nh.water.usgs.gov/Publications/nh.intro.html>

Free in-class presentation–All classes are eligible to receive a free in-class presentation about groundwater and New Hampshire’s drinking water, which includes a groundwater model demonstration. Our volunteers are scheduling presentations on a first-come, first-serve basis. Their preference is to do several presentations in one day for all participating classes at a particular school. Therefore, schools with several participating classes are asked to coordinate scheduling among all teachers. **To schedule a visit**, please contact Bruce Montville at LifeWise Community Projects at 664-9827 or bmontville@lifewise-nh.org. When calling, please have at least 2-3 possible dates ready to ensure that we can fit you in.

Return completed *Water-use Surveys* and data collection *Summary Sheets* grouped by class **NO LATER THAN May 1, 2004** to

Marilee Horn
USGS
361 Commerce Way
Pembroke, NH 03275

Please include your mailing and e-mail addresses with the returned **Residential Water-Use Surveys** and data collection **Summary Sheets**.

Dear Parents:

Over the next few weeks, our class will be participating with schools throughout the seacoast region in a residential water-use survey sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, NH Geological Survey, NH Coastal Program, and NH Department of Environmental Services. The purpose of the study is to make data available to improve planning and decision-making regarding water resources in the seacoast watersheds.

The project has two parts in which we hope your family will participate.

(1) The first part is an informal survey (see attached) that asks about the water use, attitudes, and conservation efforts of your family. This water use survey also can be completed on-line at home or at school through the Web site <http://des.nh.gov/survey/wateruse>

(2) The second part involves collecting information on how much water your family uses over a 4-week period. The students have been supplied with summary data sheets and instructions for this purpose.

Both the completed survey and data sheets are due back to me at school no later than _____. If you complete the survey on-line, then only the data sheets are due back to me.

Please be assured that all responses are confidential. All water-use data will be compiled and analyzed by the sponsors to draw general conclusions about water use within the region. No particular households will be identified or singled out. In addition, if our class schedule permits, we hope to use the data in class as a learning tool to tie in various skills and topics we are covering this spring.

Should you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or if you have a question for the sponsors, please contact Marilee Horn at (603) 226-7806 or mhorn@usgs.gov.

Information about the residential water-use project can be found on the U.S. Geological Survey Web site at <http://nh.water.usgs.gov/CurrentProjects/seacoast/>. Click on **Middle School Project**.

Sincerely,