

# Region 2 Water Quality Coordination Program

## *New Jersey – New York – Puerto Rico – Virgin Islands*

- **Mission** – Advance the utilization of Land Grant University resources to address key regional water quality issues.
- **Objectives** – Coordinate the water quality resources of the four Land Grants in Region 2; integrate water quality research, education and extension; enhance partnerships with US EPA Region 2, other federal, state and local agencies and academic institutions.
- **Partners** – Cornell University; Rutgers University; University of Puerto Rico; University of the Virgin Islands; US Environmental Protection Agency Region 2.
- **National Theme Areas** – Watersheds; Drinking Water and Human Health; Nutrient Management; Animal Waste Management.

### *Region 2 Water Quality Coordination - Programmatic Approach*

**Focus on key regional water quality issues and innovative solutions. While such issues may manifest differently throughout our diverse landscape, regional partnership yields fresh approaches and regional projects that build on complementary expertise and capability.**

**Close coordination with US EPA Region 2 (regional project coordinator also serves as EPA Region 2 liaison). Emphasis on voluntary and incentive-based approaches where Land Grant University expertise can be applied to develop and test management practices and engage and educate stakeholders.**

**Regional projects: Animal waste management for small farms; point – nonpoint source nutrient trading; onsite wastewater treatment system management; Cooperative Extension educational programming to support estuary and watershed initiatives.**

**Region 2 annual conference, “Building Interagency and Interstate Partnerships to Protect and Restore Water Quality,” May 11 – 12, 2004, Cornell University.**

### *Regional Project Examples*

#### *I. Nutrient Trading*

- A. Regional stakeholder dialogue (kick-off meetings and ongoing electronic dialogue);
- B. Demonstration projects throughout region (involving faculty from multiple universities and collaboration with EPA and state environmental agencies);
  - \* Feasibility study;
  - \* State endorsed US EPA Watershed Initiative project proposal.

#### *II. Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Management*

- A. Regional Symposium;
- B. Encourage and support local demonstration projects in each of our four jurisdictions and support other local/state onsite management projects;
- C. Regional training on innovative onsite technology for system designers and public officials;
- D. Identify needed research.

### *State Project Examples*

- New Jersey – Stormwater management education for rural and suburban municipalities;
- New York – Nonpoint source education for local government;
- Puerto Rico – Documented procedure for poultry waste lagoon closure;
- Virgin Islands – Water Quality Assessment Education (drinking water, preconstruction planning and septic system management).

#### **Contacts:**

**State Water Quality Coordinators:**  
Cornell University – Deb Grantham, 607 255-4931, dgg3 @ cornell.edu;  
Rutgers University – Chris Obropta, 732 932-4917, obropta @ envsci.rutgers.edu;  
University of Puerto Rico – Rafael Davila, 787 765-8000, ext. 2351, radavila @ upr.edu;  
University of the Virgin Islands – Julie Wright, 340 693-1082, jwright @ uvi.edu.

#### **Regional Coordinator:**

Jeffrey Potent, 212 637-3857, potent.jeffrey @ epa.gov.

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Region 2 is characterized by vast diversities in climate, geography, population and land use.

