



USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

[Regional Water Quality Coordination in the US EPA Region 2](#)

Abstract: Region 2 covers New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. It is a diverse, densely populated region rich in water resources with complex water quality issues.

Objectives: The Region 2 Water Quality Program (RWQP) coordinates Land Grant University (LGU) water resource expertise within US EPA, Region 2: Cornell University, Rutgers University, University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands. Regional initiatives are carried out to address key water quality (WQ) issues and test innovative approaches to collaboration.

Initiatives include: small farm animal waste management; nutrient trading; onsite wastewater treatment system management; and watershed management. The RWQP establishes partnerships within the universities and government agencies through these initiatives.

Methods: Annual and topic-specific meetings identifying emerging WQ issues and building partnerships. Regional initiatives utilizing university/agency collaborations to address priority WQ issues in the region.

Partnerships: The RWQP has developed partnerships among the faculty of our partner institutions, and with federal, state and local agencies and other universities. Our ability to craft university/agency partnerships is enhanced by the RWQP Coordinator also serving as the EPA Region 2 Liaison. This fosters working relationships with EPA management and staff at regional and headquarters levels, and also helps build bridges with other federal and state partners.

Resources: The RWQP employs CSREES National WQ Program funding to build formal partnerships among the LGUs in the region, and provides seed funding for projects that support the regional initiatives. The initiatives and partnership building with federal and state agencies provides a vehicle for leveraging funding from other sources to support university-based WQ projects.

Integration of Research, Teaching, and Extension: The initiatives provide a mechanism to create applied research, education and Extension integration.

Results: The RWQP provides a forum for information exchange between faculty and agency professionals, enabling creative partnerships to form.

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