



USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

Water Outreach Education: Building a Repository of BEPs

Abstract:

One goal of the Water Outreach Education or Best Education Practices (BEP) project, a USDA/CSREES National Facilitation Project, is to provide access to education practices that water management professionals can be confident are best practices for educating specific audiences. Many research papers recommend education practices; few focus on adults or identify BEPs for specific audiences. In 2004, we focused on building a repository of audience-specific BEPs and on how to better provide access to those and other water education resources. Activities included a meta-analysis of 95 water outreach studies that were reviewed by specific target audiences; a national symposium with invited papers and panelists; and fine-tuning the Water Outreach Education web site contents. The literature search and Symposium findings added both scope and depth to our search for audience-specific BEPs. In addition, Symposium participants made recommendations for addressing remaining gaps in BEPs for target audiences; promoting the use of BEPs as part of a water management strategy; and fine-tuning the web site's design and content. Web site suggestions were incorporated and the new site was launched in December 2004. The conference poster and handouts will feature unique tools available at <http://wateroutreach.uwex.edu>. We need you to contribute your water outreach materials and case studies to make the site complete. Explore the web site and learn how to submit a resource during the poster session.

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