

REGIONAL RESULTS FROM USER-DRIVEN OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGIES AT THE UNH STORMWATER CENTER

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Session Title: Communicating Stormwater Research to a Diverse Set of Stakeholders

Abstract: The University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center is dedicated to the protection of water resources through effective stormwater management. To accomplish this, the Center has two main focus points: i) *the research and development of effective stormwater treatment systems*; and ii), *to provide user-driven, research-based outreach and education products*. What makes this approach particularly effective is the outreach component in the form of technology demonstration workshops at the Center's unique field facilities. Workshops are targeted to serve the needs of a broad variety of audiences: the technical design community, municipal officials, watershed organizations, regulators, developers, and other stormwater professionals. Workshops typically include a field component where participants tour numerous stormwater management installations representing the range of available technologies. The field component is followed by a technical presentation on the siting and design aspects as well as research results for the range of stormwater systems observed. The demonstrations themselves are an important opportunity for dialog between the Center's researchers the technology end-users. Where the typical academic model targets peer reviewed publications, the Center keeps abreast of current topics and issues relevant to both regulators and practitioners. A user-driven outreach strategy has helped keep the Center's research sharp and provides a unique tool for identifying barriers to implementation of more effective management technologies. In 2007, the Center, CICEET representatives, and instructional design experts from the Coastal Services Center (CSC) partnered to develop a targeted training for the technical design community. The lessons learned and user driven outreach products will be the focus of this presentation.

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