



It's Our Water!

(Join us and schedule a workshop TODAY!)

N.C. Division of Water
Resources

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“The Water Connection — Water Resources, Drought, and the Hydrologic Cycle in North Carolina”



The 2007-2008 drought was the worst since North Carolina first began recording droughts in 1895. Historically, our state is water-rich, but as the drought began to worsen, the vulnerability of our water supplies came into sharp focus. People began asking questions. How did things get so bad so quickly? Will my town run out of water? Will my well go dry? Why are we still in a drought when it has rained for several days?

The N.C. Division of Water Resources developed “The Water Connection” to help answer these questions and to help people better understand water resources in general. It is an excellent enhancement to It's Our Water, because it covers many of the same topics with great illustrations and straightforward language.

Topics include North Carolina's climate (including climate change), the impacts of hurricanes and floods, the hydrologic cycle, groundwater and surface water connections, all about drought, and planning for the future. You can download “The Water Connection” at www.ncwater.org. Please feel free to make as many copies as you would like for educational purposes.

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This is the **last** issue of the It's Our Water! newsletter. It will be combined with the NC Project WET newsletter, **The Water Cooler**.





A Resource For Teaching Water Quality Monitoring



Living Water is the EELE for Eno River State Park, and although it was designed to be used in the park, most of the activities can be used in any stream or freshwater waterway. It is targeted towards middle school students, but the information and student handouts are appropriate for high school as well.

The format for the activities are similar to *It's Our Water!* and *Project WET*. There is a sidebar that outlines major concepts, skills, time needed, materials, etc. They all begin with the objectives, educator information, instructions, and assessment strategies to simplify teacher planning. They also all have student information and worksheets. The topics covered include:

- Pre-site Visit Activity 2 — In **A Key to Water Quality** students learn how to use a dichotomous key.
- On-site Activity 1 — **Go With the Flow** teaches how to calculate stream flow.
- On-site Activity 2 — **Mind Your p's and H's** discusses pH.
- On-site Activity 3 — **Sediment: The "S" Word** has great student information, on water clarity but the activity portion is dependent on a ranger and their equipment. Teachers can use the information together with the transparency tubes, however.
- On-site Activity 4 — **Water Bugs** is all about macroinvertebrate sampling for use in calculating stream index values. The dichotomous key included is excellent. Laminate enough copies for each group to have at least one in the field.
- Post-visit Activity 2 — **Troubled Water** introduces water quality protection through environmentally sustainable planning. This would make a great introduction to the Action Plan component of the *It's Our Water!* curriculum.



Photo courtesy of Missouri DNR

To download a free copy of the EELE, go to:

http://www.ncwater.org/Education_and_Technical_Assistance/

[Its_Our_Water/educators/Living_Water\(Eno_River_State_Park\).pdf](http://www.ncwater.org/Education_and_Technical_Assistance/Its_Our_Water/educators/Living_Water(Eno_River_State_Park).pdf)



N.C. Division of Water Resources

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It's Our Water!...

- Is a North Carolina-specific high school Earth/ Environmental Science curriculum and resource guide for North Carolina students and teachers. It covers the importance of water quality , quantity, monitoring and maintaining water quality, and the impacts individual choices and actions have on water quality.
- Centers around field activities in a local stream that leads to a final report and recommendations by the class, coordinated with a series of videos, demonstrations, classroom activities, homework and quizzes.
- Is aligned with the new (2004) North Carolina Standard Course of Study for **high school Earth/Environmental Science**.

Would You Like to Host an It's Our Water! Workshop?

All you need to do is...

- Gather up 10 high school science teachers from your school or district.
- Pick a workday or other day you can meet for 6 — 10 hours.
- Find a place to have this meeting.
- Ask the school district or another sponsor to pay \$25 each for your materials (Including: It's Our Water! DVD and Curriculum Guide, Project WET, Healthy Water Healthy People Testing Kit Manual, and NC River Basin Booklet with inserts and posters, and more).
- Contact Holly Denham (holly.denham@ncdenr.gov), who will arrange for another facilitator or herself to come to your facility and work with your group learning about It's Our Water!



Educators learn about macro-invertebrate sampling in a local stream.