Non Point Source Pollution and Stormwater Science Fair/Classroom Project Ideas

The following list includes suggestions on potential topics/research questions to guide student science fair or classroom projects related to non point source pollution and stormwater.

1. What is the effect of stormwater pollution on aquatic life?
2. Determine how a community living along a creek affects the quality of the creek water.
3. Explore how local waterbodies have been affected by pollution in Genesee County.
4. Which location in town has the most pollution? What are some pollution solutions?
5. Demonstrate the effects of a man-made structure on water quality of a stream.
6. How do oil spills affect plant growth?
7. Determine whether natural products could pick up spilled oil better than consumer products.
8. Explore methods of cleaning oil spills other than the major methods used like burning, biotechnology, and the use of biological agents.
9. Determine the effect of different car washing detergents on plant growth in streams.
10. Develop a stormwater-friendly alternative to road salt.
11. Discover the effect of rain barrel water on the growth of grass or other vegetation versus tap water.
12. Develop a tool to survey citizen's environmental views and/or stormwater-friendly behavior changes.
13. Rain- measure the speed and force of raindrops. What is the effect on soil, with and without ground cover? Could you simulate the effect of rain.
14. Determine the impact of stormwater pollutants on organism growth.
15. Determine the effects of wetland filtration on pollution in water.
16. Compare the water contamination rates of rural and urban areas.

17. Which material (sand, charcoal, or gravel) will best filter waste from creek water?

18. Determine the “top” pollutants impacting a local stream.

19. Does the pH in a stream change as it travels down its course?

20. Is there a relationship between the surface water temperature and salinity of a stream?

21. Testing different soils/ soil mixtures to see if erosion is worse in clay/sand/silt with and without different types of "cover".

22. How does an area with a buffer compare to an unvegetated area on pollution uptake and sedimentation control?