



What is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)?

The Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 requires some governmental agencies (including Public Schools) to obtain storm water permits under the NPDES permit program. The NPDES works to reduce water pollution, including non-point source pollution. One of the ways they do this is through public education.

How does this affect you?

Within Genesee County all School districts are required to have a permit except, Goodrich Area Schools, Montrose Community Schools and Lakeville Community Schools. Since 2005 Genesee County has contracted to nest the school districts under the County's NPDES permit in exchange for in-kind service.

Many programs have been developed by the Public Education Subcommittee to educate the public about surface water quality. Below is a list of programs aimed at youth education that Genesee County and its Municipalities supports or manages. It is our hope that your teachers can become aware of these programs and wish to use them.

Programs:

- **Enviroscape:** interactive models that demonstrate how pollutants can reach bodies of water. The Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office (GCDC) has 3 that can be checked out along with an informational booklet/ video. Free to schools. We also have contracted with the Genesee Conservation District (GCD) to go to schools or youth service groups and provide storm water education services to school-aged children. The school presentations which may have included the Enviroscares or an arts and craft project (age appropriate) focusing on aquatic habitat and its relation to the storm water system in Genesee County.
 - **GCDC Office:** Contact Susanne Kubic, Drain Engineer 810-732-1590
 - **GCD:** Contact Jef Johnson, Education Coordinator 230-8766 Ext 3
- **Storm Drain Stenciling: A service based program that stencils** "No Dumping - Drains to River" next to the catch basins in the subdivision roads. A printed doorknob hanger is distributed to educate residents adjacent to the stenciling locations. Both the GCD and the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) contract with the GCDC to coordinate groups and stenciling locations, provide initial training and follow up. The GCDC office has provided supplies directly to schools and service groups with minimal training when requested.
 - **GCDC Office:** Contact Susanne Kubic, Drain Engineer 810-732-1590
 - **GCD:** Contact Jef Johnson, Education Coordinator 230-8766 Ext 3
 - **FRWC:** Contact Education Coordinator 810-767-6490

- **Project GREEN:** Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) is a curriculum based, mentored program that seeks to engage young people as active citizens to improve conditions in their watersheds now and in the future. As part of this program, students receive classroom education on water quality and testing procedures and are trained to obtain samples at various sites within the watershed. Each year, schools participate in a summit, where the students are able to present their results. Last year the following schools participated within Genesee County:
 - Beecher Middle School
 - Bendle High School
 - Carman Ainsworth High School
 - Clio Carter Middle School
 - Davison Middle School
 - Flushing Middle School
 - Grand Blanc Middle School (East and West)
 - Kearsley Armstrong Middle School
 - Lakeville Middle School
 - Linden Middle School
 - Mt. Morris Jr. High School
 - St John Vianney Catholic School
 - Swartz Creek Middle School
 - Westwood Heights Hamady High School
 - Many schools had multiple classes and there were over 22 Genesee County school teachers involved.
- **FRWC:** Contact Education Coordinator 810-767-6490
- **Posters:** To assist appropriate teachers with surface water education in the following subjects:
 - How Oceans, Lakes and Rivers are connected? Atlantic Ocean back up to the Flint River.
 - What is a Watershed?
 - What Watershed your School is located in?
 - Seven things everyone can do to keep Our Water clean.
- **GCDC Office:** Contact Susanne Kubic, Drain Engineer 810-732-1590
- It is our hope to be a valuable resource to your teachers. If there is a different program that we can develop to support you in storm water education, we would be happy to help.