

Let it Rain

Stormwater Program

Soak it for Schools!



Students at Chamberlin Elementary School in South Burlington, VT "Dig Into" their workday constructing a raingarden (2013)

Join Us! We are seeking input from watershed organizations, teachers and youth leaders on the development of the ***Let it Rain: Soak it for Schools!*** Toolkit, a stormwater outreach kit of parts, being developed to educate children about stormwater in the Lake Champlain Basin and beyond. We are also accepting invitations to facilitate the delivery of the *Let it Rain: Soak it for Schools!* Toolkit in classrooms and with youth groups beginning in the fall of 2014.

Project Summary: The *Let it Rain: Soak it for Schools!* Program is a result of a growing need to both foster

children's awareness about stormwater issues and to increase the number of green stormwater infrastructure installations on school campuses throughout the Lake Champlain Basin.

Project Background: In 2011, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) partnered with the Lake Champlain Sea Grant (LCSG) to create *Let it Rain*, a stormwater mitigation program, in an effort to coordinate and implement low impact development (LID) and specifically, green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in the Lake Champlain Basin. Experience running the *Let it Rain* program has led to numerous outreach events, visits to individual homeowners providing technical assistance, and partnerships identifying challenges to stormwater education within the region. While overall messaging on stormwater continues to strengthen and spread, the target audience has been primarily adults. We recognize that children are vital participants in the success of the reach of *Let it Rain* and have the ability, conviction and motivation to impact change. Meanwhile, school grounds are the ideal learning environment with their large impervious surfaces (roofs, parking lots, compacted lawns) and potential demonstration sites of GSI for the larger community.

Funding: The project was awarded to the Winooski Conservation District (WNRCD) and is funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to the New England Interstate Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). NEIWPCC manages LCBP's personnel, contract, grant, and budget tasks and provides input on the program's activities through a partnership with the LCBP Steering Committee.

Interested in participating? Please Contact:



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Lake Champlain
Basin Program

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