

## Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC)

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### **Education grants**

Schools and non-profit organizations in the West-of-Hudson (WOH) Watershed and in the five boroughs of New York City are eligible to apply for Watershed Education Grants from the CWC. Projects must increase awareness of and appreciation for the NYC water system and the WOH Watershed and can include stream-based activities, classroom science exploration, trips to environmental education centers, or history or art projects. Awards range from \$750 to \$10,000, and grants are offered once a year. For more information, call the CWC at 845-586-1400; or go to [www.cwconline.org](http://www.cwconline.org).

CWC also maintains a website with a list of funded projects, special events and workshops, field trip ideas, environmental and outdoor education centers, watershed education resources and links, and funding sources. <http://www.watershededucators.org>.

### **Catskill Center for Conservation and Development**

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<http://www.catskillcenter.org/programs/edu/enviredu.html>

#### **The Catskills: A Sense of Place-**

A whole series of curriculum guides on the Catskills, called *The Catskills: A Sense of Place*, helps teachers enliven and enrich their lessons and instill a sense of Catskills pride in their students. Our emphasis of hands-on learning and process skills makes the guides useful for any teacher who would like to address NYS Learning Standards, listed with each activity. The lessons are designed to fit school curricula. The modules span grade levels 3-12, so students can benefit from these engaging, place-based studies over a period of years.

**Streamwatch** - A program which was developed in partnership with local schools. Streamwatch is a four-day sequence, one hour each day that promotes environmental stewardship and gets kids excited about science by collecting creatures in a local stream. This 4-day program costs \$500 for one class, and \$100 for each additional.

**Catskill Stream and Watershed Education Program (CSWEP)** - A great opportunity exists for K-12 school districts within the NYC Watershed. CSWEP, funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Stream Management Program, is a modified version of Streamwatch. This is a 6-day program (3 in the fall and 3 in the spring) that involves two fieldtrips to the local stream and an in-class visit by a local stream scientist. Through CSWEP, students determine the health of their local stream, and hear from experts that are conducting work within their watershed. This is a FREE program – call to see if your school is eligible.

#### **Leaf Pack Network® –**

The Center has partnered with, Riverkeeper and the Stroud Water Research Center to support another terrific water quality monitoring effort that is available to West-of-

Hudson teachers and adult volunteers. The Leaf Pack Network®, funded by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, involves creating and placing an artificial leaf pack (dry leaves in a mesh bag) in a local stream for 3-4 weeks. After which time, the contents of the packs are examined, and participants discover the different types of aquatic life that exist, and use them to indicate stream health. After conducting the experiment, student and adult groups can share the information on-line with other groups throughout in the Watershed and around the world.

### **Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers (WFIT) -**

Catskill region and NYC teachers come to learn and build their knowledge base about the natural world, specifically the Catskill Mountain region. Participants learn about and receive copies of a variety of curricula and resources. These include *The Catskills: A Sense of Place*, *Project Learning Tree*, and *Trout in the Classroom*, for example. Off-site fieldtrip locations include a nearby reservoir, a model forest, a wastewater treatment plant, among others. The WFIT is held annually in July or August.

### **Green Connections –**

Green Connections is a yearlong extension of the Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers and is designed to establish a partnership between middle school classes in the West-of-Hudson NYC Watershed and in the City. This unique program is also funded through the Watershed Forestry Program of the Watershed Agricultural Council. The purpose of the program is to educate students about the important connection between water quality, healthy forests, and upstate and downstate residents.

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## **Watershed Forestry Program**

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### **General overview:**

The Watershed Forestry Program is a partnership that supports well-managed working forests as a beneficial land use for water quality protection and rural economic viability. Forests cover more than 75% of the watershed land area, and a majority of this forest land is privately managed by thousands of individual landowners. As implemented by the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) using core funds provided by New York City DEP and matching grants from the USDA Forest Service, the Watershed Forestry Program promotes good forest stewardship practices among watershed landowners and the wood products industry through a combination of cost-sharing incentives, professional training, technical assistance, and education programs targeting upstate and downstate audiences. The underlying premise is that a healthy watershed forest provides multiple benefits – safe, clean drinking water for downstate consumers, a viable rural economy for upstate communities, and protected open space which benefits everyone.

The Watershed Forestry Program administers a Watershed Forestry Bus Tour Grants Program which provides limited funding assistance to downstate audiences (primarily teachers) to support bus tours of the New York City water supply system and various watershed forestry projects. For information and applications visit [http://www.nycwatershed.org/edu\\_tours.html](http://www.nycwatershed.org/edu_tours.html).