Stormwater Programs for Trash and Plastics in Fairfax County, VA, Streams

Virginia Water Monitoring Council Conference
May 7, 2010

Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Presented by Watershed Planning & Assessment Branch, Stormwater Management
**Structural**

- Periodic cleanouts of catch basins/trash racks
- Dump site identification/removals
Non-structural

- Floatables Monitoring Program
- Regional cleanups
- Public education/outreach
- Kids
Floatables Monitoring Program

- Required by county’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit
  - “The permittee shall conduct surveys of floatables. The intent of the survey is to document the effectiveness of the litter control programs for the [MS4].”
    - Select representative reaches in streams, ditches or channels & visually count all floatable materials in the site, bottom of channel, along banks or suspended in vegetation
    - Maintain records & summarize results & trends in Annual Report to DCR
    - May be accomplished through the Adopt-A-Stream program
- Regional partnership w/NVSWCD, AFF, CVW, CFC
- Data sharing
- Ongoing efforts to align data collection procedures & integrate data
- Make results available to partners, general public
Regional Cleanup Efforts

- County (Stormwater, Solid Waste, NVSWCD, FCPA, others) assists and/or participates in regional cleanup events (e.g. Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Internat’l Coastal Cleanup)
- Also Adopt-a-Highway, parks cleanups, community cleanups, others
Public Education/Outreach

- WWW
  www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/

- Public events
  - Electric Sundays, Recycling Roadshow, Fall For Fairfax, Earth Day/Arbor Day

- PSAs on county’s channel 16
  (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm) as well as commercial media
  - “Only Rain” regional ad campaign w/NVRC
  - Plastic bags
  - Dog waste

- Podcasts
  www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts/

- Print media (brochures etc.)

- CFC’s “Report a Litterer”
  www.cleanfairfax.org/report.html

- Giveaways that encourage recycling etc.
**Kids**

- Stormy the Raindrop  
  Character  
  Coloring book  
  Workbook – partnership w/ FCPS  
  State SOLs
Stormy the Raindrop's Watershed Journey

Virginia Ecosystems: Endurance and Continual Change of Ecosystems

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Essential Learnings</th>
<th>Key Term</th>
<th>Summary of Main Activity</th>
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<td>A scientific prediction is a forecast</td>
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Part 1: Students make a model of a watershed and observe how water flows through over the "land."

Part 2: Using maps of Virginia and the United States, students identify lakes, rivers, and bays and the watersheds that accompany them. Students also locate their watershed address.

4. Where Do You Live?
- 4.5.b organization of communities
- 4.5.c habitats and niches
- 4.5.d animals and plants

- A community is all the organisms that live together in the same place.
- A habitat is the place or kind of place where an organism lives.
- The Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Gulf of Mexico
- North Carolina Sounds
- Chesapeake Bay
- Atlantic Ocean

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Then take the letters that appear in the boxes and unscramble them for the final message:

W A T E R

Pollution

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In-class school programs

- Sewer Science (partnership between Stormwater, Solid Waste & Wastewater)
- Education programs/presentations (partnerships with NVSWCD, CFC, others)