

# GET WET!

**GET WET! works with local students and the community to create a long-term groundwater quality database for towns where there is shared use of groundwater resources.**

<http://www.umaine.edu/waterresearch/outreach/GetWet>

## **GET WET!:**

- Conducts testing of well water with students to develop town-centered monitoring that will become the foundation of long-term monitoring programs;
- Works with local schools to assess changes in water quality using existing information from local private wells;
- Provides public presentations or workshops on the local natural history and opens discussions regarding the value of drinking water resources and land-use; and,
- Establishes a data repository at towns and at a site available online through the University of Maine to maintain monitoring data.

## **GET WET! in the Classroom:**

GET WET! works with local schools to have students sample their own well water which is then analyzed as a class project. Portable laboratory test kits are used to provide reliable and accurate measurements suitable for student use. GET WET! offers opportunities to teach students and the community about local natural history and to draw the connection between land use and water quality. GET WET! works with students to present a public summary of their research that will include a discussion of the multiple uses of natural resources.

Student data is added to the University of Maine's growing database of groundwater quality data. All schools are connected through the GET WET! Website.

## **GET WET! in the Community:**

There is a growing concern that many communities will not have the water resources to support anticipated population growth. Overused drinking water supplies are of a particular interest in rural areas where private wells are neither regulated nor tested frequently.

To manage their natural resources wisely, policy makers and citizens use student-centered projects to provide an opportunity to increase local participation and understanding of the issues.



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For specific questions about drinking water quality or hydrogeology: John Peckenham, 207/581-3254, [jpeck@maine.edu](mailto:jpeck@maine.edu)

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### **Scientific Goals**

1. Create a long-term water quality database for a locality or region through annual well monitoring and sampling.
2. Include in the database:
  - a. Water chemistry: nitrate, alkalinity, chloride, conductivity, pH, and hardness.
  - b. Locations of wells mapped into a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) program.
  - c. Operational spreadsheets with all information gathered.
  - d. Statistics and charts to graphically represent information.
3. Utilize students to create credible data to support local land-use decision making

### **Community Goals**

1. Increase awareness, understanding, and interest in water resources within the town, especially private drinking water wells.
2. Involve local citizens in the sampling, monitoring, and maintenance of water quality.
3. Generate a water quality database that can be used by the community to formulate productive choices in planning, management, and development.
4. Develop a working relationship between local community members and governing bodies.

### **Education Goals**

1. Create an interdisciplinary study focusing on natural resources, water and land uses.
2. Employ all grades and educators involved in chemistry, geology, geodesy, mapping, GIS, statistics, computer programs, and environmental studies.
3. Students should develop:
  - a. Field sampling techniques;
  - b. Laboratory skills;
  - c. Computer competence in data analysis, writing, and GIS;
  - d. Internet research capabilities;
  - e. Mapping abilities in both interpolation of hard copy topographic maps and interpretation of computer based maps;
  - f. Recognize and identify specific locations by latitude and longitude on topographic maps;
  - g. Comprehension of the terminology and function of water chemistry testing for nitrates, alkalinity, chloride, conductivity, pH, and hardness;
  - h. An understanding of why conservation and commitment to a healthy environment takes an entire community;
  - i. Present findings to public.

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