



Delaware Water Resources Center

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Mission

The Delaware Water Resources Center (DWRC) has three primary goals: to support research that will provide solutions to Delaware's priority water problems; to promote the training and education of future water scientists, engineers, and policymakers; and to disseminate research results to water managers and the public.

Groups and Individuals Served

Since its 1984 inception as a member of the National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) - a national network of 54 state Water Resources Research Institutes affiliated with and sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – the DWRC has served the Delaware “water community” of individuals and organizations interested in water affairs. The DWRC works with virtually every organization and agency in the state of Delaware that has an interest or responsibility in the water resources arena in order to develop a statewide program addressing water resource problems. DWRC’s 14 member Advisory Panel represents a wide variety of water resources related backgrounds.



Research

- The DWRC supports research by matching, on a 2:1 basis, funds received from USGS through the Water Resources Research Act Section 104b of 1984. The federal funds are being actively leveraged as seed money encouraging expanded research activities co-sponsored with academic, community or government agencies.
- Since 2000 we have funded five graduate fellowships. During the first three years, fellows researched topics in environmental soil chemistry, water quality modeling, and water resource policy. Two newly funded projects are exploring new technologies for the removal and inactivation of water-borne viruses and the fate and transport of arsenic in soils, both issues of major importance to water quality in Delaware.



- The DWRC developed and supports a strong water resources **undergraduate internship program**. The "hands on" internship projects address contemporary regional water quality concerns. During 2000 – 2005, sixty internships have been funded exploring diverse topics in water quality, modeling and monitoring; wetland identification, protection, regulation and remediation; water scarcity pricing; land use impact; and nutrient fates and nutrient management education for youth. Interns are mentored by university faculty or technical staff employed by state water resource agencies. They prepare project reports and posters to be presented at university-wide public research conferences. The process fosters opportunities for students to learn more about their potential for future research, graduate school, and possible careers in water science, policy, and management.

Information Transfer

- **Newsletters:** The DWRC distributes two newsletters, one in electronic format that presents the most timely water news each month, the other published twice a year providing more in-depth focus on topics such as drought or water quality.
- **Research annual reports:** Findings and progress reports for research projects are made available to the public. Abstracts of current projects may be viewed on the website.

- **Annual DWRC conferences:** Researchers share their findings with the public at annual DWRC conferences or undergraduate poster sessions.
- DWRC web site: <http://ag.udel.edu/dwrc> provides a news source for DWRC information and publications, water resources conferences, training and job opportunities, grants and fellowships, teaching curricula and activities, legislation, and other concerns. Links are supplied to helpful state and national water-related sites.