

DC Water Resources Research Institute (DCWRRI)/University of the District of Columbia (UDC)

DC Area Water Issues Program

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Watercat was contracted by UDC's College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) to develop the DC Area Water Issues Program (DCAWIP), a comprehensive set of university events open to all DC Area students, faculty, water managers, and members of the general public who are interested in water. Funded by the US Geological Survey (USGS) through DC Water Resources Research Institute (DCWRRI), this Program was developed with the goal of creating a more cohesive water research community in the DC area.

Working with UDC staff, Watercat developed a cohesive series of programs through which students, faculty, stakeholders and other members of the DC-area professional community could exchange information on issues, research opportunities, and recent findings. Watercat organized seminars every Thursday during the Fall 2010 semester with speakers from water "stakeholder" organizations to provide insightful, practical information about local water issues and their role in the water community, followed by a reception sponsored by area consulting firms and other water organizations. Participating organizations included the Interstate Potomac River Basin Commission, Washington Aqueduct, DC Water, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, DC Department of the Environment, US General Services Administration, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Agriculture, PEPCO, Anacostia Watershed Society, Historic Anacostia Boating Association, Earth Conservation Corps, International Association of Plumbers and Mechanical Officials, and the Anacostia Riverkeeper. The programs covered a wide range of topic including:

- DC Regional Severe Flood Risks and Protections
- Getting to Know DC's Water, Watersheds, and Stakeholders
- DC Drinking Water Supply Systems and Treatment
- Regional Cooperation: The Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan
- DC Department of Environment's Water Pollution Control Approach
- Water in DC's History and Culture
- DC's Federal Water "Footprint" and Greening the Federal House
- Water Energy and Power in DC
- Water Workforce Development and Green Jobs in DC
- DC Area Water Advocacy Roundtable
- Funding Opportunities for Water Research and Education
- Water, Trees, and Gardens in the DC Area
- Wastewater Treatment, Reuse, and Communications in DC Area
- Community-Based Water Resiliency

After the guest speaker presentations, Watercat led a dynamic dialogue with the audience participants. In addition to the speakers, "fairs" were provided during receptions with information on funding and volunteer opportunities related to the speaker programs, as well as art exhibits, a book signing, film screening, and boat tour of the Anacostia River.

Outcomes: These programs attracted a range of participants, including roughly 1/3 students, including students in the new UDC Professional Master's of Science in Water Resources Management; 1/3 faculty, cooperative extension agents, and other university staff; and 1/3 community water activists, consultants, federal and DC agency and water utility personnel. Programs included an average of 40-50 participants each week.