Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy
Cultivating Leaders * Creating Solutions * Connecting People and Water

Group Projects from the 2022 Academy

Academy participants work together to develop a project that contributes to the watershed community in Indiana. These projects can be used by others and advance watershed management in Indiana.

Note: These projects were created by the participants, and are not a product of Purdue University. For more information, please contact the authors listed.

Group 1: Rain barrels for real estate
Allison McKain, Gary Duncan and Aimee Wentworth
A campaign to work with real estate agents to encourage rain water recycling to new homeowners. The campaign includes a rain barrel workshop for real estate agents and/or a presentation/video to be shared to real estate agents, a brochure for homeowner education and a brochure for real estate agents.
Group presentation RBRE Brochure – Homeowner RBRE Brochure – Agent Logo 1
Logo 2 Education Presentation guide (word) Education presentation (ppt)
Decal Sticker Program Materials

Group 2: Color and Learn: The Water Cycle
Mandy Robbins and Hannah Martin
A coloring book to hand out at educational events. Each page has an image to represent a stage of the water cycle followed by a small description.
Coloring Book

Group 3: Social media toolkit for SWCDs
Stephanie Baker and Cora Brown
A series of social media posts that SWCDs can use for outreach and public education with the goal of generating one for each week or 52 in total. Topics include BMPs, water facts (water quality and stormwater), soil health, invasive species, cover crops, pollinators and SWCD resources available to the public.
Group presentation Social media posts (pdf)

Group 4: Garden battle buddies
Laura Cooper, Billy Pigg and Megan Sweeney
A guide highlighting plants and the associated bugs, whether they are an ally or enemy and describe the relationship. The description details the life cycle of the bugs, when to plant the plants and the benefits of the bug to the plant.
Group presentation Booklet

Group 5: Adopt a Waterway
Jacob Luken, Austin Taylor and Kayla Wright
An investigation of why the previous DNR "Adopt a Waterway" program ceased to exist, and an outreach and collaboration plan to rebuild the program.
Group presentation Sample newsletter Sample brochure

Group 6: All Natives All The Time
Jacquelyn Buck, Amanda Estes and Steve Vaughn
Native planting resources for rural and urban landscaping, rain gardens, and games for outreach.
Group presentation Flash cards (PDF) Flash Cards (canva link – editable)

Group 7: Education materials for small farm management
Miranda Edge, Ashley Sharkey and Elizabeth Strick
Educational materials in digital and print format to highlight land management needs, intensive gardening and grazing as a management practice and water management and other BMPs that can be used on small farms.
Group presentation Promotional Flier Brochure

Create a User Friendly guidance document for Field Sampling Methods.
Donny Aleo, Dave Bradway and Christopher Nettles
A guidance document that helps watershed groups determine their field sampling methods, identify tools to use and template language for their Quality Assurance Project Plan to allow watershed groups to hit the ground running.
Group presentation Guidance document

Group 9: Water color wheel of water colors
Whitney Buechler, Allison Pudlo and Rose Snyder
A handout for classroom and program use highlighting water colors. Students move the wheel to the color matching their local waters' color and the wheel will provide an explanation as to why the water may be that color and the consequences of that color for the environment.
Group presentation Color wheel

Group 10: Watershed applications of Google My Maps
Kate Barrett and Shannon Hayes
We were inspired by the watershed windshield survey module to dive deeper into Google My Maps and its applications to a range of watershed and educational programs. We made a video tutorial and wrote documentation that outlines the basic steps involved in creating a Google My Maps application, delineating and uploading a watershed boundary layer into My Maps, and adding data as points, polygons, or imported from a spreadsheet. We conclude our tutorials with some frequently asked questions and suggested applications of My Maps for watershed groups and for high school and college students.
Group presentation Guidance document Video Tutorial

Group 11: Tracking Trash: Development of an in-field rapid trash assessment
Sarah Beam and Mattie Lehman
While hugely impactful to the aesthetic and ecological quality of local waterways, trash often lacks appropriate metrics for comparing waterway health across time and space. The Tracking Trash project engaged in local efforts to adopt a standard methodology for quantifying trash impacts. The products of the project include a standard operating procedure, example data sheets, and a repository for regionally gathered data.
Group presentation Field Data Sheet SOP

Group 12: To Plant a Rain Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow
Isiah Strand and Renee Walden
How a native rain garden impacts watershed and community. Note presentation will be available virtually.
Group presentation