



By the Numbers: 2015-16

In 2015-16 the Lake Champlain Sea Grant program provided expertise to Realtors, students and educators, municipal officials, watershed organizations, and emergency responders about protecting and managing water resources in the Lake Champlain basin.

Research of green stormwater infrastructure ability to remove nutrients and sediments from stormwater continued, led by Drs. Stephanie Hurley and Carol Adair. Results were presented at scientific conferences, to state employees, and as tours.

Activities

The Watershed Alliance program reached **2000** students through direct programs or from Sea Grant-trained educators. **30** teachers are trained in the curriculum at **23** schools.

Lake Champlain Sea Grant sponsored **80** meetings and workshops, reaching over **1,300** attendees. Workshops include:

- Realtor workshops: “Demystifying FEMA” and “Floodplain Maps”
- Vermont Watersheds United meetings
- “Resilience Residency” programs and workshops with regional community partners
- Green Infrastructure Roundtable meetings
- ECHO Leahy Summit
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Healthy Soils meeting

Staff and researchers also gave **40** invited public presentations to over **1,500** audience members:

- White House panel on citizen science
- UVM landscape design class
- Vermont Flower Show and Master Gardeners
- Vermont Lakeshore Act and Shoreland Act workshops
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure presentations and walking tours
- Severe Weather Forum hosted by SUNY Albany’s Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

550 feet of stream or shoreline habitat restored or protected

Mitigation of stormwater from **6,670 square feet** of impervious surface through “Let it Rain” program

8 undergraduate students trained as Watershed Educators for the Watershed Alliance Program

2 PhD students supported on research grant

2,000 K-12 students participated in Watershed Alliance programming

Training and Education

The Lake Champlain Sea Grant program also provides training and learning opportunities for undergraduate, graduate students, and recent graduates. During the 2015-16 year **8 undergraduate** students participated in Lake Champlain Sea Grant programming as watershed educators for the Watershed Alliance program.

Two graduate students were funded through the research project, with one culminating in a Ph.D. A new partnership with the **Vermont ecoAmeriCorps** program has developed with one intern gaining experience in the Green Infrastructure Collaborative.

Leveraged Funding

In addition to the base programs and funding, the Lake Champlain Sea Grant program also continued or was awarded external grants for related projects.

- The Sea Grant Coastal Storms program awarded funds towards the project titled “Evaluating flood hazard identification tools in two Lake Champlain Basin sub-watersheds.” The project was completed in 2016.
- The project “Resilience Residency: Building climate change planning capacity in Lake Champlain basin towns” continued through 2016. Staff partnered with organizations throughout the basin to build community awareness of stormwater impacts and to implement best management practices to increase community flood resiliency and shoreline stabilization.
- Lake Champlain Sea Grant staff partnered with the City of South Burlington to study the effectiveness of a floating treatment wetland at removing nutrients and sediment from stormwater runoff. A grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program provided funds for the project.

Products

The Vermont Stormwater manual was updated with findings from research of green stormwater infrastructure and bioretention by Drs. Stephanie Hurley and Carol Adair. The manual provides best management practices for municipalities to use green stormwater infrastructure.

A Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Atlas Guide was produced for Realtor workshops.

