

CASE STUDY: GEORGIA

Program Name: Water Sourcebook Series

Agency Name: Georgia Water Wise Council

Contact Person: Fox McCarthy, Water Sourcebook Coordinator

Contact Information:

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Number of Customers:

Have filled orders for more than 500 water utilities, soil and water conservation districts, engineering consulting firms, environmental educators, schools, school districts and individuals in 40 states.

Program Description:

The Georgia Water Wise Council coordinates a network of local public/private partnerships to make the Water Sourcebook Series available to teachers. The council does this by: 1) publishing the WSS; 2) conducting a train-the-trainer program; and 3) coordinating a sponsorship program for the purchase of the sourcebooks.

The sourcebook series, written and tested by teachers, provides hands-on activities using water as the theme to supplement and enhance existing curricula. It is designed to support the disciplines of math, science, language arts, social studies and related arts. The Water Sourcebooks contain chapters covering drinking and wastewater treatment, surface and ground water, wetlands and coastal waters. Each chapter includes correlation sheets to highlight interdisciplinary teaching.

Program Beginning:

The council began this education program in 1994 by publishing the grades 3-5 books. This was followed by grades 9-12 in 1997, grades K-2 in 1998, and grades 6-8 in 1999. In January 2001, the CD-ROM was produced, containing all four Water Sourcebooks and was correlated to State of Georgia and national standards.

Target Audience:

K-12 classroom teachers, environmental educators and Cooperative Extension Service agents are the target audience. Students reached are cumulative over the years and would number in the thousands. More than 23,000 books and 800 CD-ROMs have been distributed since 1994.

Program Cost and Funding:

Materials Cost (plus shipping and handling):

Grades K-2 (424 pages with 67 activities)	\$21.95
Grades 3-5 (532 pages with 61 activities)	\$24.95
Grades 6-8 (436 pages with 60 activities)	\$22.95
Grades 9-12 (888 pages with 77 activities)	\$29.95
CD-ROM K-12 (contains all four books)	\$29.95
CD-ROM K-12 with purchase of each book	\$9.95

(Note: Quantity discounts average 40%)

Staff Time: Staff education coordinator provides grade-appropriate teacher training workshops on use of Water Sourcebooks.

Funding Source: Water utilities and/or in partnership with engineering consulting firms.

Program Objective/Driving Force:

To develop an ethic among citizens to “use what you need, and don’t pollute.” Program meets water utility permit requirements for water conservation education.

Program Type:

The classroom-based program was developed through EPA Region IV, and is applicable to all geographic areas. The Water Sourcebook Series is complementary to any agency-specific program.

What Works Best: The hands-on workshops for training teachers in using the Water Sourcebook Series.

What Would Change: Place greater emphasis on benefits to water utility sponsors.

Evaluation of Effectiveness:

Formal program evaluation on use of materials not implemented due to funding. Anecdotal comments from numerous teachers at Georgia Science Teachers Association conferences attest to the quality and effectiveness of the material. Overall success of this program is affirmed by the quantity - 23,000 books and 800 CD-ROMs - distributed.