

2016-2017

Performance Goals



1. Water Quality Improvement

Challenge: Most streams in Vermont are not in an equilibrium condition because riverside development, channelization practices and other historic land uses have prevented the river from assuming its most stable natural shape. In addition, many rivers have lost access to their floodplains and lack adequate riparian buffers. These conditions contribute to active erosion of stream banks and increased sediment and nutrient loads. Restoration and protection of river corridors and special flood hazard areas is critical for attenuation of flows, stream bank stability, and pollutant reduction.

Outcome: ECO AmeriCorps members will treat and improve 2 miles of rivers to combat this issue. Water quality assessments (biological and chemical) will be used to measure waterway improvements. Staff from the DEC Watershed Management Division will review each complete project to determine estimates of reduced nutrient loading.

2. Environmental Careers and Opportunities

Challenge: Green jobs play an important role in Vermont's economy and there is a growing demand for skilled workers in the professional and technical service industry. It is important that high school and college graduates have opportunities to gain hands-on entry level experience in the environmental field.

Outcome: All 20 enrolled ECO AmeriCorps members will be trained and/or certified in green jobs. At least 5 members will be placed in a green job within 30 days of their completion of service.

3. Ecosystem Enhancement

Challenge: Impacts of development on public land require mitigation to reduce non-point source pollution by retrofit and enhancing sites to improve ecological and hydrological function.

Outcome: ECO AmeriCorps treat and improve 10 acres of public land to improve waterways. Each project will be validated by the service site supervisor. Before and after photos will be submitted and retained for each project.

4. Agricultural Environmental Stewardship

Challenge: Nutrient export from agricultural operations impairs adjacent waterways and leads to eutrophication of lakes and ponds. Additional education and outreach to farmers is needed to increase implementation of best management practices, particularly on small farms which are not often targeted.

Outcome: ECO AmeriCorps members will provide educational resources and information to farmers regarding acceptable agricultural practices (AAP's). Members will provide environmental stewardship education and/or training to 50 individuals. At least 25 individuals will report a change in behavior or an intent to change behavior as a result of this outreach. This will be tracked via follow-up surveys with individual trainees to determine if they have initiated a project, applied for funding and/or completed a project within 6 months of the training.