



South Sound GREEN

Connecting Community and Schools for Watershed Protection

Water Quality Monitoring • Student GREEN Congress • Nearshore Education • Action Projects



For more than 25 years, South Sound Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) has been providing watershed education to about 50 classrooms and 1200 students each year. Through this program, participants engage in science and engineering practices related to water quality and storm water runoff in South Sound. Local students conduct stream investigations that include water quality monitoring, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling and action projects. Later in the school year, elected student delegates take their findings to the annual student GREEN Congress, held each year at The Evergreen State College.

South Sound GREEN also provides numerous training opportunities for teachers participating in the GREEN program. Nearshore education is an important part of watershed education through the South Sound GREEN program. Students experience nearshore-marine creatures up close at local South Puget Sound shorelines and learn about the food web and habitat that sustains the species of this ecosystem. They also learn about how human actions can impact water quality and local industries such as shellfish harvesting.

Currently South Sound GREEN is working with North Thurston Public Schools, Olympia School District, Tumwater School District, Rainier School District, Griffin School District, St. Martin's College, The Evergreen State College, private schools and home-schooled students. This program is cooperatively sponsored by Thurston Conservation District, Thurston County, the Cities of Olympia, Tumwater, and Lacey, and Trout Unlimited. Additional program funding is provided through grants from various entities. South Sound GREEN also partners with the Nisqually River Education Project (NREP) and the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium (CBEC) in the delivery of annual programs, such as the GREEN Congress, Summer Teacher's Institute, and other student and teacher development opportunities.

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