The US EPA (Region 2) has provided funding to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program to conduct the *EPA Raritan River Project* to provide a comprehensive understanding of the sources of pollution affecting the water quality of the Raritan River Basin. The RCE Water Resources Program has partnered with the Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES), the Department of Environmental Sciences (DES), the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, and Sustainable Raritan River to complete the project. Data related to known Superfund, Brownfield, and contaminated sites, point source and nonpoint source pollution has been collected within the Raritan River Watershed, but these data are currently fragmented, inconsistent, and difficult for the general public to access and place into the context of specific community concerns and actions. Known sources of contamination impact groundwater and surface waters, threaten Raritan watershed biodiversity, and limit public access to this important natural resource. Rutgers will compile this data into a comprehensive database and develop an interactive tool that will assist stakeholders in making decisions related to environmental cleanup, site reuse, identification of water pollution sources and data gaps and providing recommendations for future research needed to fill these gaps and improve water quality.

To provide comprehensive understanding of the sources of pollution in the Raritan River Basin, project staff have compiled existing data and information available on the Raritan River and the Raritan Bay (Figure 1). Rutgers has reviewed federal, regional, and state websites, obtained currently available data, and compiled a database of surface water data and polluted sites. In addition, a library of journal articles, technical reports, and research theses has been created. The *EPA Raritan River Project* has convened an Advisory Group to review the data and assist with the determination of data gaps and to develop a prioritization scheme for polluted sites. Representatives from federal, regional, and state agencies, local municipalities, university research projects, and local not for profits are members of the Advisory Group. This unique group will ensure that the data is both relevant to the Raritan River and useful for all potential users.

If you are interested in learning more about the *EPA Raritan River Project*, please contact Christopher Obropta, Associate Extension Specialist in Water Resources ([obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu)) or Steven Yergeau, Senior Program Coordinator ([syergeau@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:syergeau@envsci.rutgers.edu)).

Figure 1: Project area for the *EPA Raritan River Project*. Each colored shape represents a different data point with environmental data for the Lower Raritan River and Raritan Bay.

