



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Water Resources Program
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



DECEMBER 2024

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER



*Best wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season
from the
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Water Resources Program!*

*Chris, Lisa, Chris, Hollie, Matt, Roy, Allison,
Payal, Maya, Benny, Gillian, Alena, Alrick, & Erik*



2024 Highlights

**197 Certified Green
Infrastructure Champions**



**4,500+
Completed Contact Hours**

**10,400+
Program Participants**



**70+
Municipalities Engaged**



31 Projects Installed



6,205 Student Hours



**22 Years Working
Toward our Mission**



**156,500+ Square Feet of
Drainage Area Managed**



**38,900+ Square Feet of
Green Infrastructure Practices Installed**

The Soy turkey is all gone ...

It was Thanksgiving evening. I had just returned from dinner with my family. It was a vegan Thanksgiving, and all the food was wonderful. We left my son's house when it was snowing very heavily. Did I mention I was in Frankfort, Maine about 20 minutes south of Bangor, Maine? I drove my son's Honda Civic back to the Airbnb. It was a very stressful 30-minute drive with lots of fishtailing (*Is this even a word?*), but we made it.

Back at the Airbnb, I poured myself a glass of Irish Whiskey to calm my nerves and turned on my favorite Christmas movie. I doubt you could guess my favorite Christmas movie. Is it *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Home Alone*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *A Christmas Story*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *Scrooged*, *Love Actually*,

or maybe *Die Hard*? While these are all good choices, my favorite Christmas movie is *The Bishop's Wife*. It is a romantic comedy where Cary Grant plays an angel that comes down from heaven to help David Niven, the Bishop and his wife, Loretta Young. The Bishop, David Niven, is trying to raise money to build a cathedral but is forgetting about what is really important: his wife, his daughter, and helping the poor people that are in real need. If you haven't seen it, you need to. It always puts me in the holiday spirit. For those of you who don't know me that well, Christmas is my most favorite time of year. I start looking for the perfect Christmas gifts for my loved ones and friends during the summer. After watching the *Bishop's Wife*, I put on *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Not that nonsense that Jim Carrey did, but the original animated version, narrated by Boris Karloff. By the end of the night, my "heart grows three sizes," and I "find the strength of 10 Grinches plus two."

It has been a tough year for many of us. But on Monday, I will dust myself off and continue. I will keep focusing on helping communities address their water resources issues. I will continue to write grants to secure funding so impactful projects can be installed. I will start updating my Green Infrastructure Champions presentations that will begin on January 10, 2025. But most importantly, I will rally my team to work with all of you to make a difference. As Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Let's be that small group.

~ Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E., Extension Specialist in Water Resources

DID YOU REGISTER YET?
What are you waiting for?
Become a leader, become a
Green Infrastructure Champion in 2025!

Classes start Friday, January 10, 2025



The next Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program will be offered every other Friday from 10AM to 12NOON starting January 10, 2025!

All sessions for the 2025 training program will be offered via an online format.

Generous support from our funders is allowing us to offer the 2025 training for FREE.

Here is what we can offer as part of the program:

- Training on green infrastructure planning and implementation
- Technical support to develop a design for a green infrastructure demonstration project
- Networking opportunities with other certified Green Infrastructure Champions for mutual support
- Assistance with grant writing

2025 Training Program Class Schedule:

1. How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town (January 10)
2. Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure (January 24)
3. Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects (February 7)
4. Stormwater management regulations, policies, and ordinances (February 21)
5. Green infrastructure planning and implementation for Sustainable Jersey points (March 7)
6. Green infrastructure projects for targeted audiences (March 21)
7. How to design and build a rain garden (April 4)
8. Retrofitting traditional detention basins with green infrastructure (April 18)
9. Developing green infrastructure master plans for an entire site or neighborhood (May 2)
10. Using green infrastructure to promote climate resiliency (May 16)

Registration is required and OPEN!

[Go to water.rutgers.edu](http://water.rutgers.edu) today to learn more and register!

Attendance at a minimum of five (5) classes is needed for certification.

This program is partially funded by the **New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station** and **New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium** and is a collaboration of the **Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program** and the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee of **Jersey Water Works**.



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Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

water@envsci.rutgers.edu
www.water.rutgers.edu

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Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program | 14 College Farm Road | New Brunswick, NJ 08901 US

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