



# Morris County, NJ 4-H Rain Barrel Project

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## ABSTRACT

Rain Barrels are a popular form of rain water harvesting by residents of New Jersey. The Rutgers Water Resources Program has developed a Build a Rain Barrel Program modified from Virginia Department of Environmental Services Rain Barrel Program. The program has been modified by Morris County Cooperative Extension to provide an opportunity for community service and “teaching back” to the community for the 4-H Be The Change program who attended a Build a Rain Barrel workshop, where they built and painted ten (10) rain barrels. They were provided with educational lectures over several days on watersheds, nonpoint source pollution, stormwater management and water conservation. At the 40th annual Morris County 4-H Fair the teens provided a “Teach Back” demonstration on two consecutive days where they provided education to fairgoers while demonstrating barrel building. The ten painted barrels were placed around the fair grounds for viewing and were available for bid at a Silent Auction. All rain barrels were sold at auction.

## METHODS

- June 14, 2010 Teens from the 4-H Be The Change Program attended a Rain Barrel workshop to learn how to build rain barrels.
- Teens from the 4-H Be The Change Program attended an educational workshop on June 23 and 24, 2010
- Surveys were conducted to assess knowledge prior to lecture and after lecture.
- Teens painted rain barrels on June 23rd and 24th
- Teens prepared to “teach back” serving their community by providing two educational lectures with rain barrel building demonstrations at the 40th Annual Morris County 4-H Fair July 23 and 24th
- Final survey to assess change in knowledge after they prepared to teach.
- Silent Auction of Painted Rain Barrels on July 25, 2010

## OUTCOMES/ IMPACTS

- Teens significantly increased knowledge about stormwater, water conservation and a solution– rain barrels.
- Knowledge increase was greater after the teens prepared to “teach back” to the community.
- Teens were able to build their own rain barrels and then translate that knowledge to teach others to build rain barrels.
- Ten rain barrels were built, painted and sold.
- A potential 13,000 gallons/year of rain water from these ten rain barrels can be harvested. (Follow up surveys to see if they are installed in 2011 will be conducted, many were sold to homes of 4-H parents).



The Be The Change Program of Morris County 4-H is for Grades 8-13 and provides teens with the opportunity to interact, stimulate, educate and support one another by working together to serve their community.

