Project WET’s mission is to reach children, parents, educators and communities of the world with water education.
Pictured: Sign placed in a schoolyard in Uganda.
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Pictured: In Project WET’s Sum of the Parts activity, students demonstrate how everyone contributes to and can reduce the pollution of a river as it flows through a watershed.
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Project WET Foundation, we would like to thank you for your support in 2008.

One of Project WET's signature water science activities – Sum of the Parts – is used throughout Project WET's network as a team-building exercise and a fun, high-impact method for demonstrating how every person can contribute to a solution. Like the activity, when the individual efforts of the Project WET network are compiled, the sum is greater than its parts. The combined efforts of the network are far-reaching with long-term, positive impacts, and we would like to personally thank everyone in the network who has contributed to reaching the world with water education.

Project WET's national and international network of host institutions reached thousands of school and community educators in 2008 through specially-designed “train-the-trainer” water education workshops. These trained educators in turn have the potential to reach millions of children and young adults in schools and communities over the next decade.

Our long-term sponsors Valerie Gates and Nestlé Waters have provided funding to support the core work of Project WET, thus benefiting everyone in the network from children in a village in Africa who are dealing with serious sanitation problems to the classroom in New York City helping clean up the Hudson River.

In addition, project sponsors such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have played an important role in funding publications (e.g., *Discover Coral Reefs KIDS and Healthy Water, Healthy Habits, Healthy People*); program sponsors such as the U.S. EPA's EETAP program also have played an important role by funding workshops and diversity training (e.g., Native Waters).

As Project WET celebrates over two decades of reaching children, parents, educators and communities with water education, we look forward to working with you as “the sum of our parts” make significant strides in addressing water challenges worldwide.

Best regards,

Heidi Paul, Chair
Project WET Foundation Board of Directors

Dennis Nelson, President and CEO
Project WET Foundation
Pictured: At an educator training workshop in Uruguay, participants complete the Project WET activity ‘Humpty Dumpty’ where they compare the challenge of environmental restoration to restoring a broken pot.
2008 Highlights

- Project WET announced its commitment to developing and publishing the 2nd generation of the *Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide* by the end of 2010.

- With funding from USAID, Project WET developed four new publications on sanitation and hygiene that were distributed and implemented in 13 African nations, reaching more than 30,000 schools, 175,000 teachers, and five million students during 2008.

- Project WET USA coordinators conducted over 1,000 “train-the-trainer” workshops.

- Project WET launched its corporate program, Going Green on the Blue Planet™.

- Project WET concluded 2008 with programs in 42 countries on five continents.

- *KIDs: Discover the Waters of New Mexico* and *Arizona Conserve Water Educators Guide* were named finalists in the Association of Educational Publishers’ annual awards competition.

- Project WET received the Universities Council on Water Resources' prestigious Public Service and Education Award.

- Originally signed in 1995, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and Project WET reaffirmed their commitment to water education through a new Memorandum of Understanding.

- Ducks Unlimited and the Project WET network conducted 45 Project Webfoot wetlands education workshops in 16 states.
Pictured: Project WET USA Coordinators attend their annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.
The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and Project WET have reaffirmed their commitment to water education through a Memorandum of Understanding. Originally signed in 1995, a new MOU was signed in February 2008.

Susan Schultz, Director of Stewardship and Education for NACD, says, “Conservation districts are already using Project WET and have been for many years. This is a continuation and expansion on how they are currently using the programs in their outreach efforts.”

NACD is an organization representing 3,000 conservation districts in the United States and 17,000 people who serve on the governing boards. Conservation districts implement natural resource management programs and work with cooperating landowners to help them manage and protect land and water resources on both private and public lands.

“Conservation districts have a strong focus on water, no matter where in the U.S. they are located,” Schultz says. “Project WET is the perfect tool to work with youth, and I’m hoping we can apply some of the same concepts to educate adult audiences.”

NACD builds partnerships in addition to informing and serving conservation districts as their national voice. Since 1955, NACD has sponsored a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May, but the stewardship theme is carried out throughout the year. NACD’s 2008 Stewardship Program theme was “Water is Life,” which corresponded with the efforts and focus of Project WET.

“There are lots of decision makers in the local communities,” Schultz says, “and this information helps them better understand water issues at a local, state, national and global level.”
A water right is the right to use a specific amount of water in a specific place for a specific purpose (like growing crops). The oldest water rights get first chance to use the water. You can think of this as first come, first served.

 Imagine a line of people waiting to drink at a fountain. The first in line represents the person with the oldest or senior right. This person always drinks first and as much as his or her water right allows. The last in line represents the person with the newest or junior water right. This person always drinks last. If enough water isn’t available for everyone, the last person may not get to drink as much as he or she needs.

How does our history affect the way we use water today?

Native Americans used New Mexico’s water first. They held the oldest water rights in the system. They are entitled to the water they need for current and future generations.

Agriculture (farming and ranching) has always been important to New Mexico’s culture and economy. Many farmers and ranchers also have very old or senior water rights, either as a community ditch system (acequia) or as individuals.

Cities, industry, and even school systems have water rights but most came after Native Americans and farmers. They have junior water rights and must stand at the back of the line.

**How to Play:**

1. You will need: 6 players and 20 pennies (or paperclips).
2. Place the pennies on the river. They represent units of water.
3. Number strips of paper 1 – 6 and have each player draw one from a hat without looking.
4. The number you drew tells you which water user you are, and how old your water right is. Number 1 is the oldest water right and always goes first.
5. In the list above, find the water user that matches your number. Read it and follow the directions when it is your turn.
6. After all have taken their water, how much is left in the river?

**Drought Year!**

1. Play again, but this time only put 13 pennies in the river.
2. Did everyone get all of the water they wanted?

**Challenge:**

Water Management!

What is one benefit of using this system for dividing water? What is one drawback?

How does drought affect water users?

Water is important for ecosystems and habitats. The Southwestern willow flycatcher and the Rio Grande silvery minnow are two endangered species that rely on New Mexico rivers.
Project WET’s Publications at the Head of the Class

Project WET joins Scholastic and Weekly Reader Publishing in winning awards from the Association of Educational Publishers (AEP) for several of its publications.

AEP is a national, non-profit professional organization for educational publishers and content developers. Since 1996, as Distinguished Achievement Awards finalists and winners, several Project WET publications have been recognized as “among the best in educational materials.” In addition to AEP, Project WET publications have been recognized by: The Nature Company, Independent Press and National Association of Interpreters (NAI).

Project WET has worked with over 50 sponsors to produce its interactive Kids In Discovery (KIDs) activity booklets and educator guides. The mission of KIDs is to help children discover science, natural history, culture and history through reading and hands-on activities. Project WET is currently working with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) to publish two KIDs booklets: Sea Turtles and California Coastal Ecosystems. Work is also underway with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to produce an international KIDs activity booklet and educators guide on Floods and Flooding. These publications will be introduced in Istanbul, Turkey at the Fifth World Water Forum in March 2009.

Project WET is beginning KIDs: Discover the Waters of Nebraska with the National Drought Mitigation Center and the University of Nebraska-Extension, in addition to KIDs: Discover the Waters of Tennessee with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Finally, in preparation for the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage of discovery, KIDs: Discover the Hudson River will be published by fall 2009, with the support of the Hudson River Estuary Program/New York State Water Resources Institute and a number of other partners. Project WET currently is seeking sponsors for publications requested by school and business communities. KIDs: Health and Hydration will be a colorful, highly illustrated publication focusing on the importance of water for human health.

Project WET is also seeking support for an educators guide and KIDs booklet entitled KIDs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Renew. Organizations or businesses are invited to support publications for young people on: health and hydration, the 4Rs or a topic in line with their mission such as Weather, Climate and Change, Healthy Habits, Sustainability or Urban Waters. To view all Project WET publications, visit http://store.projectwet.org.
Pictured: Walmart employees participate in the activity 8-4-1, One for All at the February 2008 Project WET training.
Building Teams Through Sustainability Training

According to a recent study by Fresh Marketing (Corporate Sustainability, Employees Want the Change, July 2008), “Most employees want more education and resources on corporate sustainability, as only one in 10 feel completely prepared.”

Sum of the Parts, Hitting the Mark and 8-4-1, One for All are Project WET activities used in its corporate sustainability and team-building training program. These activities teach about point-source and nonpoint-source pollution, water quality and the role we each play in managing water. Concurrently, activities emphasize communication, decision-making and growing relationships.

Project WET’s corporate sustainability and team-building training program:

- educates employees about sustainability.
- strengthens internal teams’ and employees’ communication skills, decision-making abilities and relationships.
- empowers employees to participate in corporate sustainability initiatives and volunteer in the communities where they live and work.
- provides employees with tools to volunteer in their communities.

When asked to assess the effectiveness of a 2008 market-wide training for Walmart employees, Stacy Furlong, market human resource manager, replied, “The Project WET training in November fostered team-building among associates and proved to be a tremendous tool for engaging associates - in their jobs, the Walmart culture and the community.”

Bozeman Walmart Supercenter co-manager Nick Paden added, “Thanks to Project WET, our associates now have a greater awareness of environmental sustainability and how they can make a positive difference, both in their personal lives and as members of the Walmart team.”

In addition to Walmart, Project WET also has trained employees at Cargill and Nestlé Waters North America.
Pictured: Project WET educator training workshop participants model activities for one another. Here, they demonstrate the activity Break the Chains with an interactive board game about healthy habits.
Education Offers Tools for Healthy Living in Africa

“Education is life,” a sign reads in the schoolyard of Ntinda Primary School in Kampala, Uganda. In sub-Saharan Africa, where basic necessities such as access to water are difficult to obtain, education can empower people to develop healthy habits to help control the spread of disease, improve their health and well-being and ensure the future of their communities.

To raise awareness of the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene and to promote actions and behaviors with positive outcomes, the Project WET Foundation, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Africa Education Initiative, developed a series of hands-on education materials for sub-Saharan African teachers and students. The materials were distributed and implemented in 13 African nations, reaching more than 30,000 schools, 175,000 teachers and five million students during 2008. USAID’s Africa Education Initiative (AEI) is committed to improving educational opportunities for Africa’s children, especially girls and marginalized communities.

The Project WET Healthy Water, Healthy Habits, Healthy People (published in English and French) resources include four water education components: a teacher module with seven hands-on lesson plans, two Kids in Discovery (KIDs) student activity booklets and an interactive poster. These colorful and fact-filled publications teach about water fundamentals, the connection between water and diseases and actions that can be taken to stay healthy. The illustrations and text give instructions for effective hand washing in addition to techniques for simple water purification. The booklets also promote the value of understanding and protecting water sources. Water scarcity is a contributing factor to many of the health problems the population faces. The information contained in Healthy Water, Healthy Habits, Healthy People is vital to reducing deaths caused by poor hygiene and inadequate preventative measures. Within the materials, water's connection to malaria is explained, along with steps people can take to protect themselves from the disease, such as covering up at night and sleeping under a mosquito net. Knowledge of the connections between health issues and water usage prepares today's students for a healthier tomorrow.
Pictured: Children at the Lake Victoria Primary School in Entebbe, Uganda learned about water’s dynamic movement using the water cycle in Project WET’s interactive Incredible Journey activity.
The water, sanitation and hygiene education materials initially were distributed in 13 sub-Saharan countries through USAID Missions, government ministries, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and church groups. Additional distribution, based on interest generated during the initial distribution, has been extensive:

- While 1,000 schools were reached in the initial distribution, over 2,500 schools requested the materials.
- The Ugandan Ministries of Education and Sports and Water and Environment as well as the National Curriculum Development Center approved the use of the materials in Ugandan schools nationwide.
- A partnership with Water for All was formed in order to implement the materials in conjunction with PlayPumps installations, potentially reaching over 600 communities in 10 countries.
- Sample copies were distributed to more than 100 interested organizations working in Africa including USAID Missions, NGOs, church groups, aid organizations, teachers and government ministries.
- Project WET saw interest in adapting the materials for audiences from other regions including Latin America and Asia.
- The educational materials will be available digitally through several media including the Project WET website (www.projectwet.org) and USAID-sponsored educational portals such as the Africa Commons and Global Learning Portal.

“The materials are designed to allow easy use by teachers and educators; facilitate exploratory and interactive learning for pupils; and be easily adaptable by various educators at all levels. The initiative also is aimed at influencing behavioral changes amongst pupils in schools, improving sanitation both at school and in the home environments as well as promoting positive actions in using and managing water among the youth and children who are the future water planners and managers of Uganda.”
  - Hon. Maria Mutagamba, Uganda Minister of Water and Environment

“. . . the materials provide good reading and (are a) source of useful information on water and hygiene, specifically suitable for our children.”
  - Uganda Department of Basic Education

“. . . the ideas and information provided are relevant to our lives.”
  - Uganda National Curriculum Development Centre
Pictured: After completing Project WET’s Sum of the Parts activity, students stencil storm water drains with the message “dump no waste, drains to lake” as an ActionEducation™ project.
WET Receives 2008 Education and Outreach Award from Universities Council on Water Resources

The Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR) membership recognized the Project WET Foundation as the 2008 recipient of the Education and Outreach Award. The UCOWR membership consists of over 90 worldwide universities and organizations involved in education, research, public service, international activities and information support for policy development related to water resources.

This award recognizes educational institutions, individuals, groups or agencies that have made significant contributions to increased public awareness of water resources development, use or management covering the natural, biological and/or social sciences. Project WET joins previous award winners including Penn State University (College of Agricultural Science/School of Forest Resources), El Paso Water Utilities and the U.S. National Water Research Institute.
Pictured: In Project WET’s Break the Chains activity, training workshop participants use problem-solving skills to discover how they can break the chains of disease transmission by adopting healthy habits.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Project WET International Foundation, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Project WET International Foundation, Inc. (a nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Project WET International Foundation, Inc. as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Bozeman, Montana
April 9, 2009
After participating in a Project WET sustainability training, Walmart employees led interactive stations at a water festival for local fourth graders. The water festival helped Walmart further its commitment to strengthening its relationship with the local community.
## Project WET International Foundation, Inc.
### Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2008

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</table>

*Pictured Left: In Project WET's activity Water Works, students demonstrate the complexity of sharing water among all water users in a watershed.*
Pictured: In the Project WET activity Incredible Journey, students create colorful bracelets as a record of their journey through the water cycle.