

## Ohio Source Water Environmental Education Teams

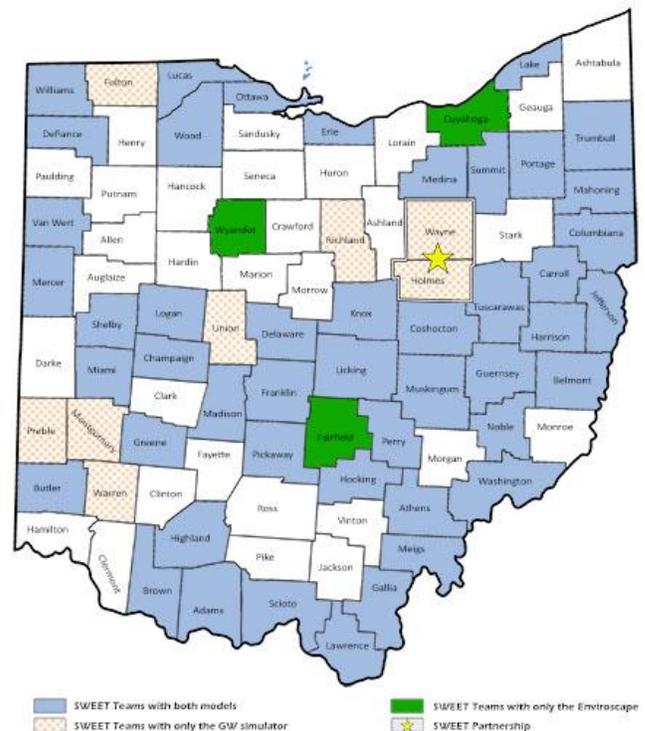
Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEETs) provide Ohioans with education and guidance about protecting their sources of drinking water. In 2005, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Ohio DNR) partnered to establish this network, which currently includes 57 teams serving 58 Ohio counties. Each team, mostly organized by county soil and water conservation district staff, consists of three to five local water resource partners such as local health departments, watershed coordinators, and public water system operators. The teams have become an important component of source water protection education efforts across the state.

### Tools and Training

SWEETs are equipped with a variety of educational tools, including user-friendly ground water flow models that demonstrate the behavior of ground water, movement of contamination, and the relationship of ground water to surface water. Some SWEETs also have EnviroScape® table top models that show drinking water sources (surface and ground water), and drinking water and waste water treatment processes. The models were funded in part through grants from Ohio EPA’s Environmental Education Fund.

### Education and Outreach

SWEET members have considerable expertise in planning environmental events as well as professional experience in natural resource protection. SWEETs can provide presentations to public meetings, civic organizations, community festivals or events, scout programs, and others to educate Ohioans about the importance of protecting their source of drinking water. SWEETs can even design demonstrations that focus on the specific audience’s local water resources.



Public Water Systems can utilize SWEETs when developing and implementing their community’s Drinking Water Source Protection Plan. Schools can invite SWEETs to their classrooms and field days to educate students on topics such as ground water flow, contaminant transport, source water protection and treatment, and waste water treatment processes. Their programs have been correlated to Ohio’s Science Academic Content Standards.

### Contacts

To schedule a presentation, contact your local SWEET listed on the following page. To form a SWEET in your county, contact one of these coordinators:

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- ▲ Team has both the EnviroScape® and Ground Water Simulators
  - Team only has the Ground Water Simulator
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