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Southeast RCAP Board of  
Directors Meeting

# Progress in North Carolina

NCRCAP: A Contractor for Southeast  
Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.



#### North Carolina Office:

P.O. Box 941  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Tel: (919) 542-7227  
Fax: (919) 542-2329  
Email: [ncrcap@ncrcap.org](mailto:ncrcap@ncrcap.org)  
Website: [www.ncrcap.org](http://www.ncrcap.org)

#### Regional Office:

145 W. Campbell Ave, SW  
PO Box 2826Roanoke, VA 24001  
Tel: (540) 345-1184  
Fax: (540) 342-2932  
Email: [sercap@sercap.org](mailto:sercap@sercap.org)

Rich Holder  
Community Resource Coordinator  
[holder@ncrcap.org](mailto:holder@ncrcap.org)

Linda King  
Office Manager  
[king@ncrcap.org](mailto:king@ncrcap.org)

Peter Kittany  
Executive Director  
[kittany@ncrcap.org](mailto:kittany@ncrcap.org)

Marcia Perritt  
Projects Manager  
[healthyhomes@ncrcap.org](mailto:healthyhomes@ncrcap.org)

Marshall Yandle  
Programs Coordinator  
[yandle@ncrcap.org](mailto:yandle@ncrcap.org)

#### Statistics in North Carolina

USDA Technitrain  
16 projects  
3 workshops

OCS  
8 projects  
2 workshop

EPA Wastewater  
1 project  
2 workshop

EPA Drinking Water  
1 project

## NCRCAP Coordinates Statewide Workshops Series to Present Cost Analysis Tool For Rural Wastewater



*Picture from workshop held in Elizabethtown at the Bladen Co. Cooperative Extension on June 3, 2011. Courtesy of B. Britts*

This summer NCRCAP coordinated a series of five workshops across the state for rural communities who wished to learn about a simple cost-analysis tool and basic knowledge of wastewater treatment. Workshops were held in Raleigh, Williamston, Elizabethtown, Boone, and Cullowhee. Over 100 participants from North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina attended with over 40 systems represented. "We are really pleased with the turnout, especially from funders in North Carolina including, NC Rural Center, USDA, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the NC Department of Commerce," said Peter Kittany, Executive Director at NCRCAP.

During the morning sessions, cooperative extension specialists and engineers went over basic wastewater treatment technologies. At lunch, participants were split up in groups and given basic information to develop mock communities based on their personal experiences. After a review of the tool in the afternoon, these mock communities were then used to demonstrate how the tool can perform complex calculations by entering in basic information about a community. This hands-on activity kept workshop participants actively engaged in the workshop and assisted with their comprehension of the tool.

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All participants received a copy of the tool along with a series of factsheets regarding distribution, collection, and treatment technologies in decentralized systems. The factsheets provides easy explanations of how the technology works which helps the community understand what options would be best for their community. “The feedback has been positive from the workshop. Knowledge is power, and we’d like to give small communities information to make a more informed decision on what is the best wastewater system for them. The tool and factsheets breaks it down so that everyone can understand,” said Marshall Yandle, Programs Coordinator at NCRCAP

As a result of the workshop, NCRCAP has already begun to use the tool in some communities. NCRCAP will continue to promote the use of this tool in the future and work with communities who might need guidance on its use that could not come to the workshop.

## **Going Strong: NCRCAP Continues Western Carolina Septic Repair Program – Repair 6 Homes**

NCRCAP Community Resource Coordinator, Rich Holder completed another successful year with the Western Carolina Septic Repair Program. Rich worked with hundreds of volunteers partnering with volunteer groups; ReCreation and Appalachian Servant Event to help repair six septic systems in Buncombe, Madison, and Yancey counties. The NCRCAP Western North Carolina Septic Repair Program is a service-learning program that provides volunteer groups with education on onsite wastewater treatment techniques. In addition to gaining technical knowledge, the volunteer groups are provided an opportunity to understand southern Appalachia, see collaboration among a wide variety of public and private organizations, and pursue a lifelong dedication to community service. The program is committed to protecting public health, environmental and natural resources, and addressing poverty issues in Western North Carolina.



*Youth Volunteers from Appalachian Servant Event working in Yancey Co. Courtesy of the Conservation Fund.*