

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RSEP Launches Web Site and Distributes Stormwater Fact Sheets at Town Meetings**

*South Burlington*—Town meeting day unofficially marks the beginning of spring, and also indicates the start of outdoor car washing, gardening, and home improvement projects. Unfortunately, few people realize that harmful chemicals can be washed into local waterways if spring cleaning chores are not performed properly.

To help people learn more about the harmful effects of their behaviors on stormwater and Lake Champlain, The Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program (RSEP) will launch its new Web site <http://www.smartwaterways.org>, and distribute educational fact sheets on town meeting day. In addition, RSEP will be launching a series of radio and television ads this spring, in an effort to help people learn how they can improve water quality in the lake with simple changes in their everyday lives.

The Web site has brief descriptions of common household behaviors that cause water quality problems, simple solutions anyone can act on, events and programs in local communities, an explanation of how the stormwater system works in Chittenden County, and an interactive map. The Web site will be further expanded to include more information and features. The facts sheets educate residents about preventing stormwater and lake pollution, and reducing the environmental impact of working in the home and garden, doing auto maintenance, making home repairs, and painting and remodeling.

"The Smart Water Ways Web site will be a resource for all residents of Chittenden County to find information on how their behavior affects stormwater quality. We know that the people in our towns are concerned about the health of our streams and the lake. This Web site and fact sheets will give people tools to help care for this valuable resource," said RSEP chair Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer for the Town of Essex.

RSEP is coordinated by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. The educational program is part of an overall comprehensive stormwater permit effort required by federal law and embraced by the RSEP. After the general information phase, later phases of the program will focus on the ongoing efforts to reduce stormwater pollution by the Burlington Airport, University of Vermont, municipalities participating in RSEP, and the business and commercial sector. For more information, visit [www.smartwaterways.org](http://www.smartwaterways.org).

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