



# Education & Community Leadership

## Why be concerned?

Activities that your business will perform as a community partner are part of a continuing process. Employee education is key to any successful pollution prevention program, and will be critical to integrating water resource stewardship into your business operations.

Community leadership in protecting water quality is good public relations: both your business and the environment benefit.

Employee education and community leadership help to raise awareness about the need to protect our rivers and streams.



## Make Protecting Our Water Your Business

- Develop and implement an action plan to protect water quality through the Community Partners for Healthy Streams program. For more information about Community Partners for Healthy Streams, call the number listed under "Getting Help."
- Adopt an environmental policy statement. Post and circulate this statement to employees.

- Train employees to routinely inspect equipment and evaluate activities for opportunities to prevent pollution. A weekly site walk-through can help identify potential problems. Provide incentives to encourage staff participation to protect water quality.

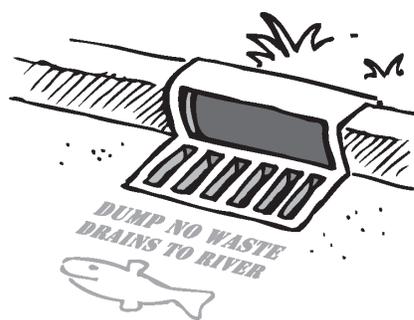
- Assign experienced workers to train new ones. Review procedures as a group at least once a year. You can coordinate this with worker safety training programs or "worker right-to-know" training for hazardous materials.

- Display signs describing water quality protection activities where employees and customers will see them. For example, install a sign near trash receptacles reminding staff to keep covers closed and the area clean.

- Mark storm drains with the message "No Dumping, Drains to Creek." This informs employees and customers that dumping wastes into these drains is not appropriate. You can request markings through Cobb County Storm Drain Marking Program.

- Join the "Adopt-A-Stream" program and adopt a portion of one of Cobb's tributaries and monitor the water quality of a local stream.

- Encourage peer businesses to become Community Partners.



## Encouraging Contractors to Protect Water Quality

Encourage or require contractors to implement practices recommended by Community Partners for Healthy Streams. At a minimum, request that contractors:

- use the least toxic products and procedures possible
- explain how wastes will be managed
- strictly adhere to all federal, state and local laws

Whenever possible, monitor contractors and their employees to assure compliance.

## Encouraging Tenants to Protect Water Quality

If you own or manage property, educate tenants about protecting water quality. For example, include information in newsletters, mark storm drains and post signs next to trash receptacles. Set up a collection center for used oil and other household wastes that can be recycled.

## GETTING HELP

- Cobb County  
Adopt-A-Stream.....(770) 528-1482
- Cobb County Storm  
Drain Marking Program....(770) 528-8214
- Keep Cobb Beautiful.....(770) 528-1135
- UGA Cooperative Extension  
Service for Cobb County..(770) 528-4070
- Community Partners  
for Healthy Streams .....(770) 528-1482