

# Neuse Education Team i m p a c t s

Educational Impacts 4.

## Practical Policy

*Since its inception in 1997, the Neuse Education Team has remained dedicated to educating people who make public policy decisions on the health of the Neuse River.*

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

*“Policy makers need to be exposed to science-based knowledge that will improve the Neuse.”*

*— Mitch Woodward,  
Neuse Education Team*

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service knows how to educate people effectively, including those that make public policy. The Neuse Education Team realizes the value of educating local and state elected officials, government officials and members of the regulatory community.

Connecting this collective group of people to science-based knowledge that will improve the Neuse River is important because these are the people who make important decisions that affect water quality. And because of this group's limited time, project tours provide the best framework for learning.

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- Policy makers need exposure to new ideas. Tours allow people to observe comparative results — a before and after scenario. They allow people to ask questions, listen to why a solution works and interact with technical experts and scientists.
- The Neuse Education Team uses targeted tours to maximize the teachable moment. Some tours focus on agricultural solutions. Others focus on urban/homeowner solutions.
- Demonstration tours visit sites that address timely issues public servants are interested in such as land use, innovative best management practices and stormwater management. Officials learn that what they see working in one county or on one farm, may be just as applicable in their community.
- The Neuse Education Team structures tours in a way to maximize networking and information sharing.



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