

# Fall 2021 Walnut Creek Watershed Learning Network – Module 4

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## *Vocabulary for Module 4*

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The **Clean Water Act** establishes the basic structures for regulating discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States (40 CFR 230.3(s)).

**Climate change** is the irreversible process of increasing global temperatures caused by heat trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases (GHGs).

**Environmental justice** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (EPA).

## Introduction

The fourth module of the WCWLN took place on October 23rd, a beautiful fall day at the Walnut Creek Wetland Park in Raleigh. This module is the fourth of six modules for the WCWLN program, which means that we are getting closer to seeing the various projects from our participants. The topics discussed in module four are: Policies & Regulations Governing Watersheds, Raleigh’s Climate Plan, and the Warren County Environmental Justice Movement.



Image 1. Keshi Satterwhite explains the purpose of the WCWLN to participants. She encourages them to continue to learn from each session and bring this knowledge to their communities. All photos courtesy of Aniya Bourne.

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Image 2 & 3. Dresden Hasala presenting on legal and regulatory mechanics of water management.

## Policies & Regulations Governing Watersheds

Dresden Hasala, J.D. Candidate of Campbell University, started off our Saturday morning with the evolution of water governance in the 1850s. It wasn't until the 1880s water management became a concern. The tremendous floods on the Mississippi River (1910's - 1920's) and the Dust Bowl (1930s-1940s) initiated the regulation of water in the United States. Due to these extreme incidents, the Flood Control Act of 1944, is the first comprehensive watershed legislation. Since this time, there has been a heightened



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awareness of watershed management by various acts, publications, and environmental concerns. The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 established the basic structures for regulating discharges of pollutants into waters of the U.S. (40 CFR 230.3(S)). Dresden also described the importance of the “waters of the United States”. This term has 7 different meanings, each of which needs to be addressed in order for the CWA to permit control of what people can and can’t do within “waters of the U.S.”.



Image 4. Megan Anderson introducing Raleigh’s Community Climate Action Plan.

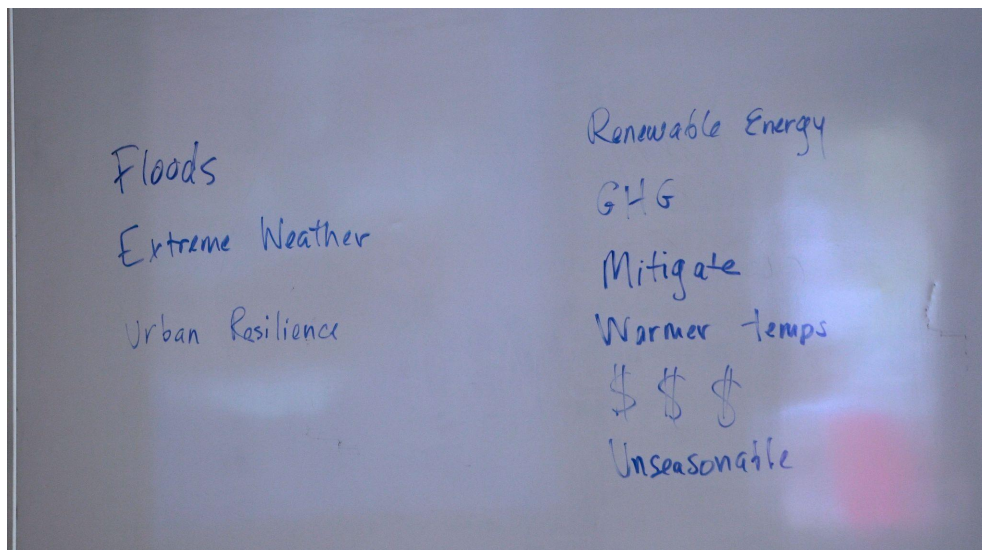


Image 5. WCWLN participants brainstorming the topics that are related and affected by Climate Change.

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## Raleigh Climate Plan

Megan Anderson, Sustainability Manager and Nicole Goddard, Sustainability Analyst with the City of Raleigh's (COR) Office of Sustainability, presented the City's Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which aims to address the following: Buildings and Energy Strategies, Transportation and Land Use Strategies, and Resilience and Cross Cutting Strategies. Climate change is caused by human activity, like burning fossil fuels for transportation, light, and heat. Agriculture, construction, and aviation are one of the primary industries that emit greenhouse gases (GHGs). The main objectives for CCAP are; 1) Reduce GHG emissions, 2) Build Community Resilience, and 3) Support Climate equity. Some of the ways to reduce emissions are to motivate the construction of energy efficiency in new buildings. Switching to green energy, Duke Energy is transiting to cleaner supply methods. One of those methods is installing renewable energy on buildings and community projects. To reduce emissions from transportation, COR is encouraging more walkability, bikeability, and easy transit use in areas that are located in densely populated areas. The key is to reduce the vehicle miles traveled (VTM) and increase mobility in other forms of transportation. Alternative fuels such as electric cars are cleaner burning rather than diesel or gasoline.



Image 6. Megan Anderson providing an interview for the WCWLN.



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Image 7. Nicole Goddard in front of the Norman and Betty Camp Education Center.



Image 8. Nicole Goddard speaking with Denise about Climate Change related projects.

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Image 9 & 10. Reverend William Kearney (right in photo) speaking with Reverend Don Singletary, PEJ Director of Community Outreach & Board Support.

### Warren County Environmental Justice Movement

Reverend William County, a Warren County Environmental Action Team (WCEAT) representative, led the Warren County Environmental Justice Movement discussion. WCEAT is dedicated to promoting health and wellness in their community, embracing environmental justice challenges they have faced in the past and adopting environmentally friendly practices. The WCEAT was established in February 2012. In 1978 Warren County, a poor, rural and mostly minority area had been taken advantage of

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by federal and state agencies allowing the dumping of a dangerous chemical called Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) along county roads. Since this time, the community has fought for justice by taking legal action and protecting the landfill's construction. Today, the community continues to educate people about their history through storytelling, presentations, community walks/gatherings, and hosting September as Natural Resource Appreciation Month: A Celebration of Water (H<sub>2</sub>O). To learn more about or get involved with WCEAT and the Warren County African American History Collective please follow this link: [Facebook.com/WarrenCountyEnvironmentalActionTeam](https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyEnvironmentalActionTeam) and [www.wcaahc.com](http://www.wcaahc.com).

## NKM Reflections from Module 4

NKM Reflections address the following questions, 1) What did you NOTICE today? 2) What are you KEEPING? and 3) What will MOTIVATE you to continue the journey? Each WCWLN participant fills out these reflections after each module. Below are some of the reflections from our participants.

### What did you NOTICE today?

- “How terrible environmental racism is and how not many people know about it (Warren County PCB Dumping)”.
- “These goals and efforts need lots of coordination, long-term focus, and a wide variety of stakeholders”.
- “I noticed that all of the presenters were very involved in the information they presented, showing that they truly care about the topics”.
- **What are you KEEPING?**
- “It’s important to be aware of the wider context- what’s going on, who to reach out to, and who to work with along the way”.
- “Future project ideas about contacting government officials regarding protecting the environment (land, water, & air)”.
- “My newfound knowledge of cases like Warren County. The information I’ve gained. More people need to hear it”.

### What will MOTIVATE you?

- “The progress and achievement that have already taken place are what motivates me. Seeing success and advancement is very encouraging”.



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- “It’s good to see effort being taken in many different Contexts and there are many opportunities to contribute”.
- “The ability to improve environmental quality. I want to help and I feel like I can”.

### Next Modules:

**Topics:** Overview of Planning, Design, & Implementation of Various Scales of GSI, NC Cooperative Extension Workshops, City of Raleigh Stormwater Innovation & Financing, & GSI Site Visits

November 6, 2021 @ 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Topics:** WCWLN Graduation, Individual Project Presentations & Testimonials, Program Trivia, Individual & Group Action

November 20, 2021 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm



Image 11. Reverend William Kearney describes the community engagement taking place in Warren County, NC.