

RICHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) is an award-winning District whose commissioners and staff are recognized as statewide leaders in conservation programming.



YOUTH EDUCATION

RSWCD staff provided classroom conservation programs for 2,650 students at 28 schools on the topics of soil and water conservation, wildlife management, and forest stewardship during the 2019-2020 school year. RSWCD also promotes student engagement in natural resources conservation through an annual poster contest, Arbor Day observances, and the SC Envirothon.

TEACHER TRAINING

In 2020, RSWCD supported 24 professional development events for educators across the state and produced a pollinator conservation educators' guide which has been distributed internationally. RSWCD supports environmental education curriculum trainings through partnerships with SC Project Learning Tree and Project WET, and it serves hundreds of teachers in Richland County each year.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

Since 2012, RSWCD has provided 79 Conservation Education Mini-Grants to support conservation projects in schools and environmental education centers across Richland County. RSWCD staff members mentor dozens of environmental projects at local schools each year through the SC Green Steps School program.

FARMING AND AGRICULTURE

RSWCD facilitates technical, financial, and educational assistance to farmers across the state by hosting workshops on conservation practices and conservation assistance programs. In FY19, RSWCD hosted three conservation workshops for 152 farmers and farm resource providers AND the 4th annual SC Farmer Resource Rodeo featuring 35 farm resource providers and 167 participants. The RSWCD also has an active agricultural equipment rental program to promote soil conservation.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

In 2020, RSWCD launched the Richland County Seed Sanctuary, which has provided free vegetable, herb, and wildflower seeds to more than 1,000 residents. With funding from an Urban Agriculture Conservation grant, RSWCD developed a pollinator demonstration garden at Pinewood Lake Park and produced 18 educational videos about pollinator conservation which have been viewed >16,000 times. RSWCD works with several partners to promote home composting, water conservation, stormwater reduction, and more!

FINANCIAL ROI

By providing staff support to the RSWCD, Richland County reaps additional funding, including an annual state allocation, grants, cooperative agreements, and contribution agreements. In the past decade, RSWCD has recruited approximately \$657K through 23 grants, contribution and cooperative agreements, and state allocations to advance conservation in Richland County.