

A photograph showing three people in a boat on a river. They are wearing waterproof gear, including jackets and pants. One person is holding a long pole, another is holding a bucket, and the third is holding a small device, likely a water quality monitor. The water is slightly choppy.

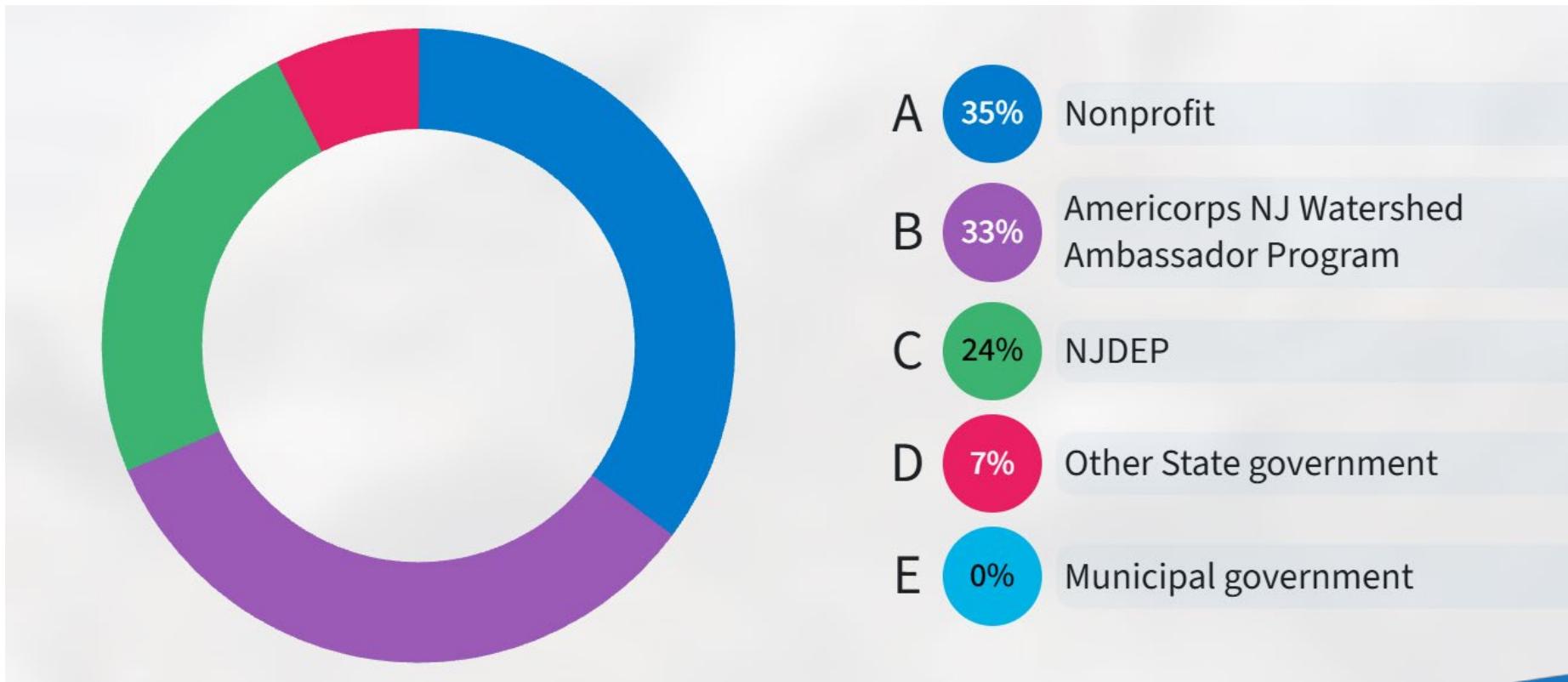
Welcome to the New Jersey Community Water Monitoring Summit!

November 13, 2025



AUDIENCE POLL RESULTS

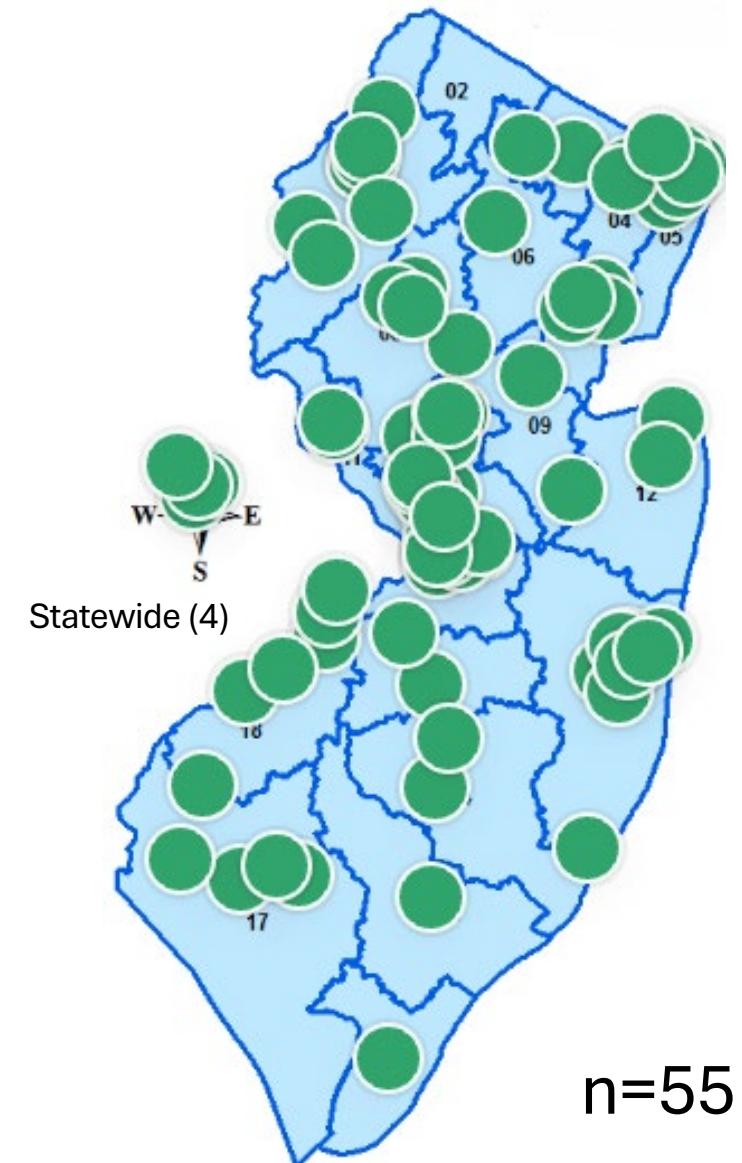
What type of organization are you representing today?



AUDIENCE POLL RESULTS

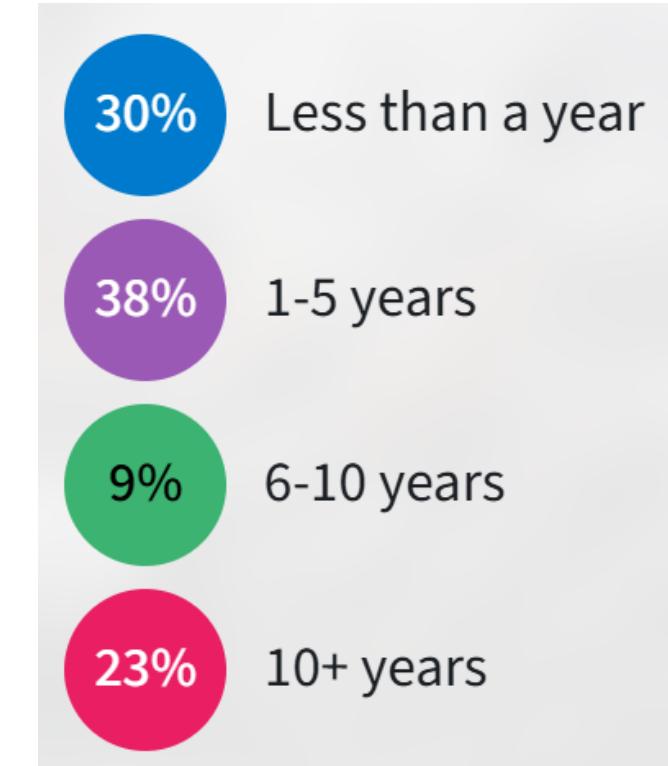
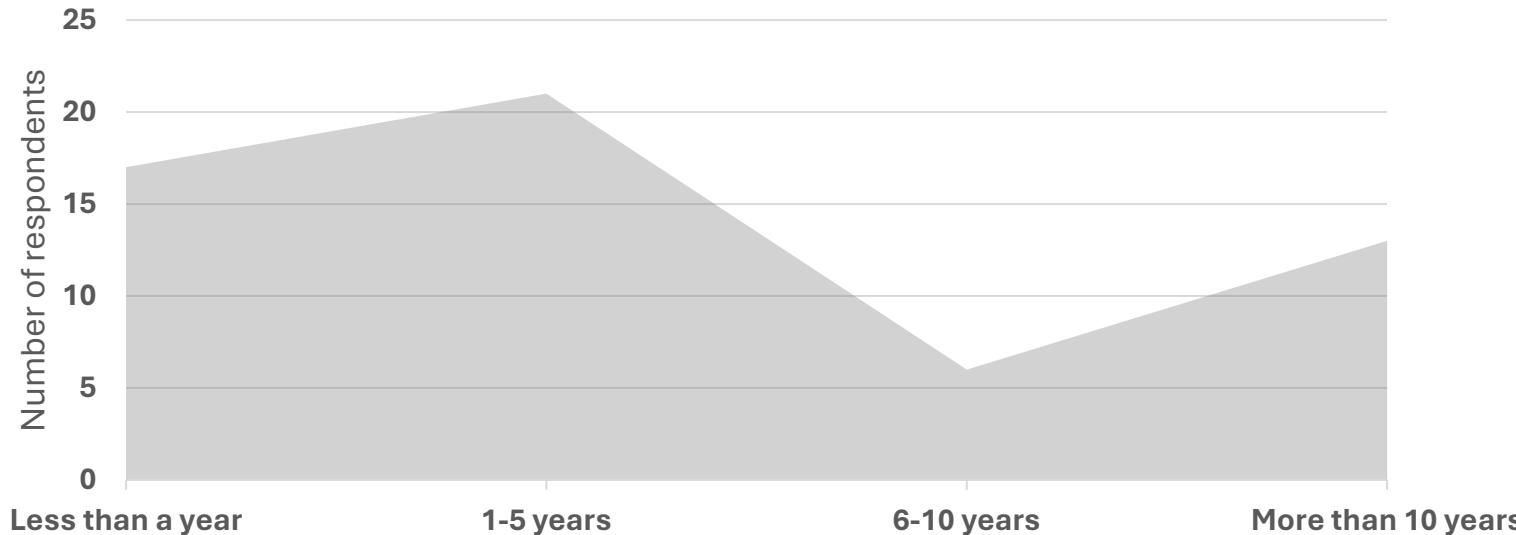
Where do you work primarily?

Click on the approximate location of your office, home, a centroid of your coverage area, or your favorite stream spot. If you work Statewide, click on the compass.



AUDIENCE POLL RESULTS

How long have you been in the water monitoring field?



n=56

Small Group Discussion

Facilitators

- Poll the group to decide on which **topic** to pick
- Read the questions on the notecard to guide discussion
- End at 3:30PM

Note-takers

- Record group number and/or names and conversation highlights

Topics

- Training Capabilities and Needs
- Data and Information Sharing
- Water Quality Monitoring

Small Group Discussion Topics

Training Capabilities and Needs

- Are there specific monitoring capabilities you are looking to develop in the future? Do you have any specific projects on the horizon?
- What topics would you like to see covered in future workshops?
- What topics would/could you deliver a workshop on?

Data and Information Sharing

- Where do you go to find water quality information?
- What kind of data, reports, or other water quality information does your organization have available to share with other data users?
- What would make it easier to access and share water quality data?

Water Quality Monitoring

- What is the most critical water quality concern in your region?
- Are there emerging issues or pollutants you're starting to pay more attention to?
- What kind of impact or change would you most like to see come from monitoring?
- What are the most significant barriers to making that happen?

A photograph showing three people in a small boat on a body of water. They are wearing waterproof gear, including jackets and pants, and are using various tools and equipment to monitor the water quality. One person is holding a long pole, another is holding a container, and the third is holding a device, possibly a smartphone or a small tablet, which they are looking at. The water is slightly choppy, and the boat is positioned in the center of the frame.

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November 13, 2025



Erin Stretz
Assistant Director of Science
NJ Watershed Watch Network Coordinator

The Watershed Institute

Our multidisciplinary team works to protect and restore the waters and natural environment of **Central New Jersey**



Education



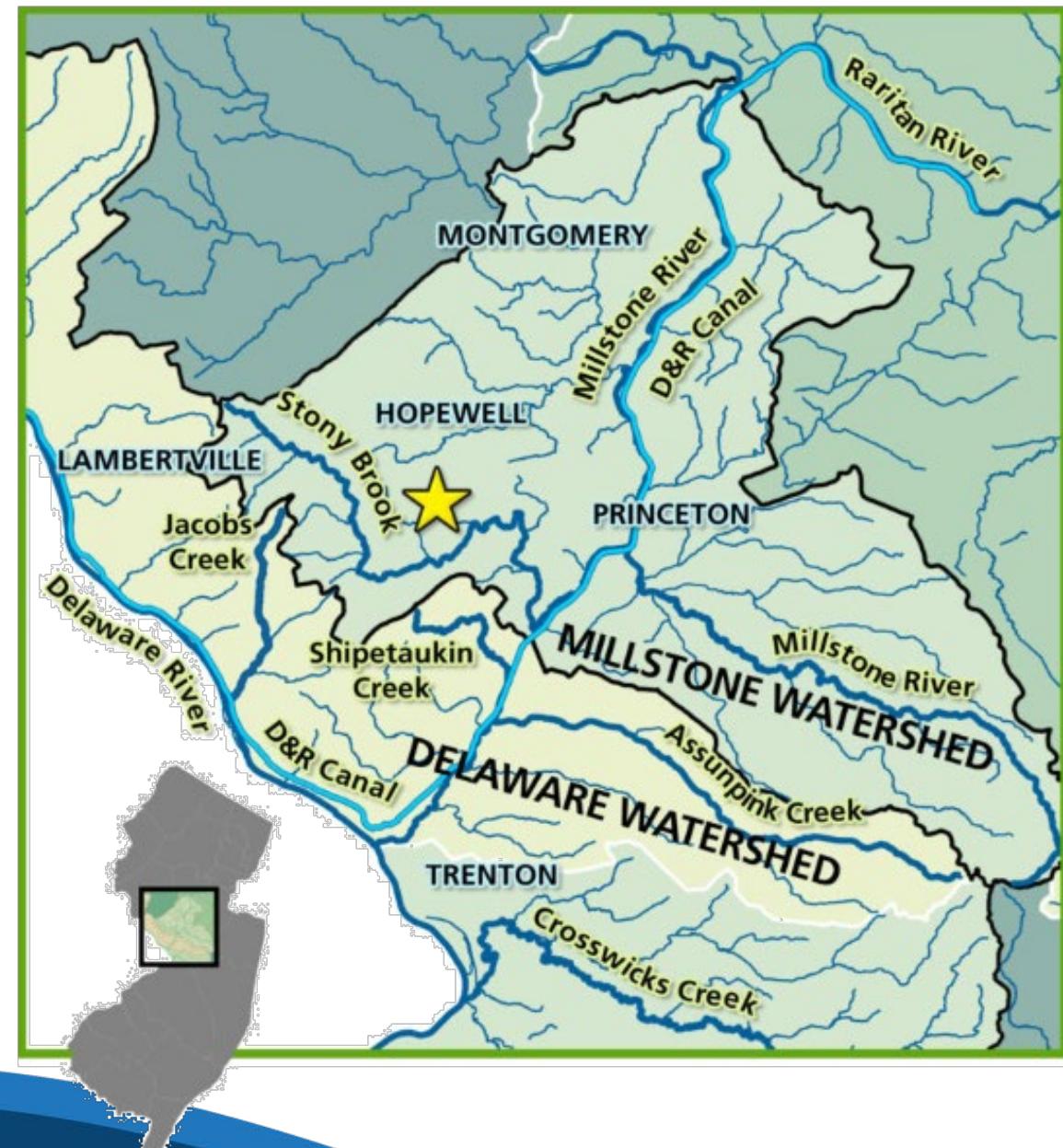
Advocacy



Conservation



Science



NJ Watershed Watch Network



Managed By:

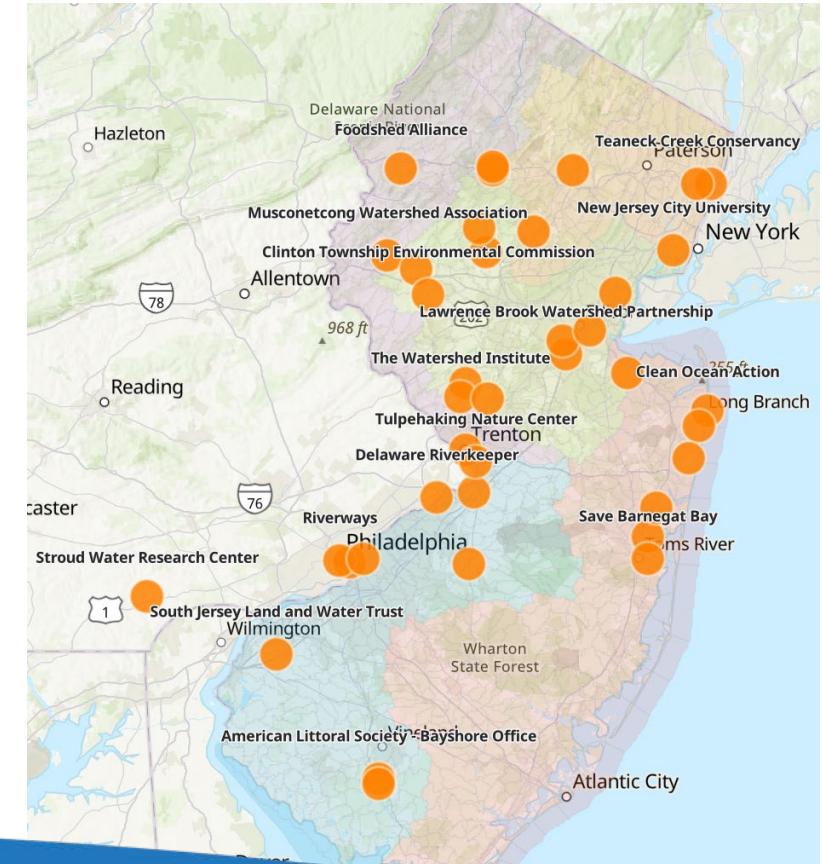


Funded By:



Primary Goal: Helping community groups to start new surface water monitoring programs and to become accredited to collect regulatory-level data for NJDEP

Providing Services For:



NJ Watershed Watch Network

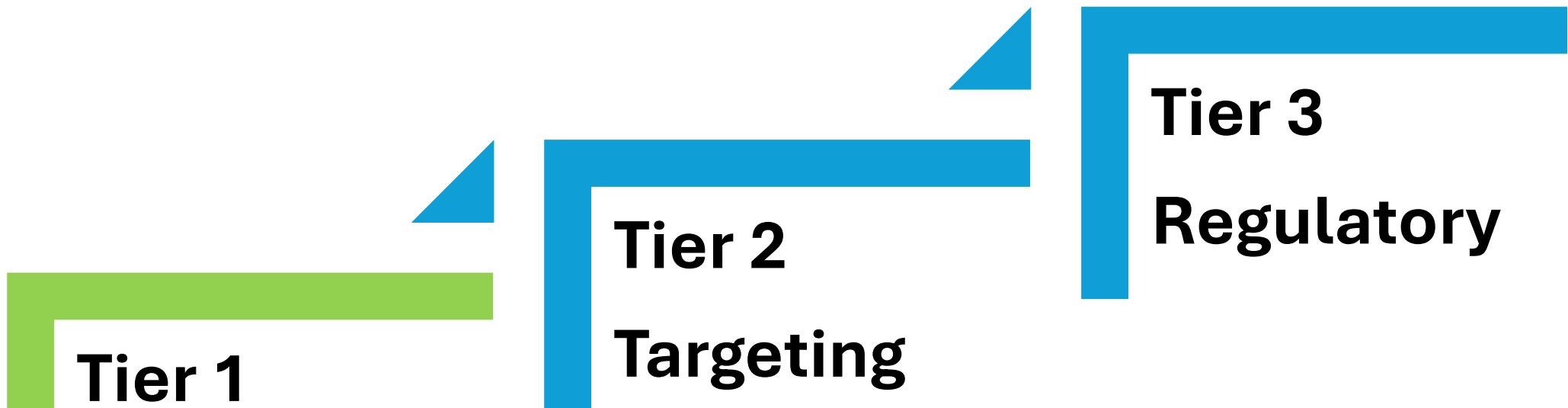
NJDEP benefits from having more data for a more comprehensive statewide assessment

- Multiple stations within one subwatershed
- Greater temporal coverage, seasonally, annually, and during storm events
- Access to private property

Non-agency groups benefit from having a more clearly defined pathway for data use

- Data leads to establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Category One (C1) protections
- Tiered data quality system clarifies requirements

NJDEP Data Quality Tiers

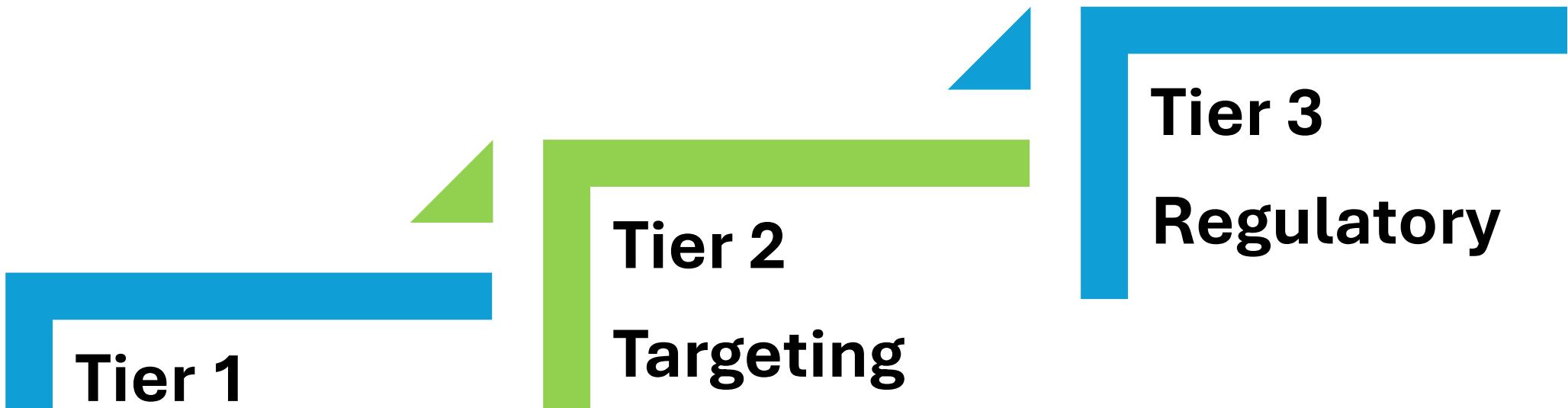


Tier 1 Educational

Requirements:

- Study Design with defined methods, locations, and timeframe

NJDEP Data Quality Tiers



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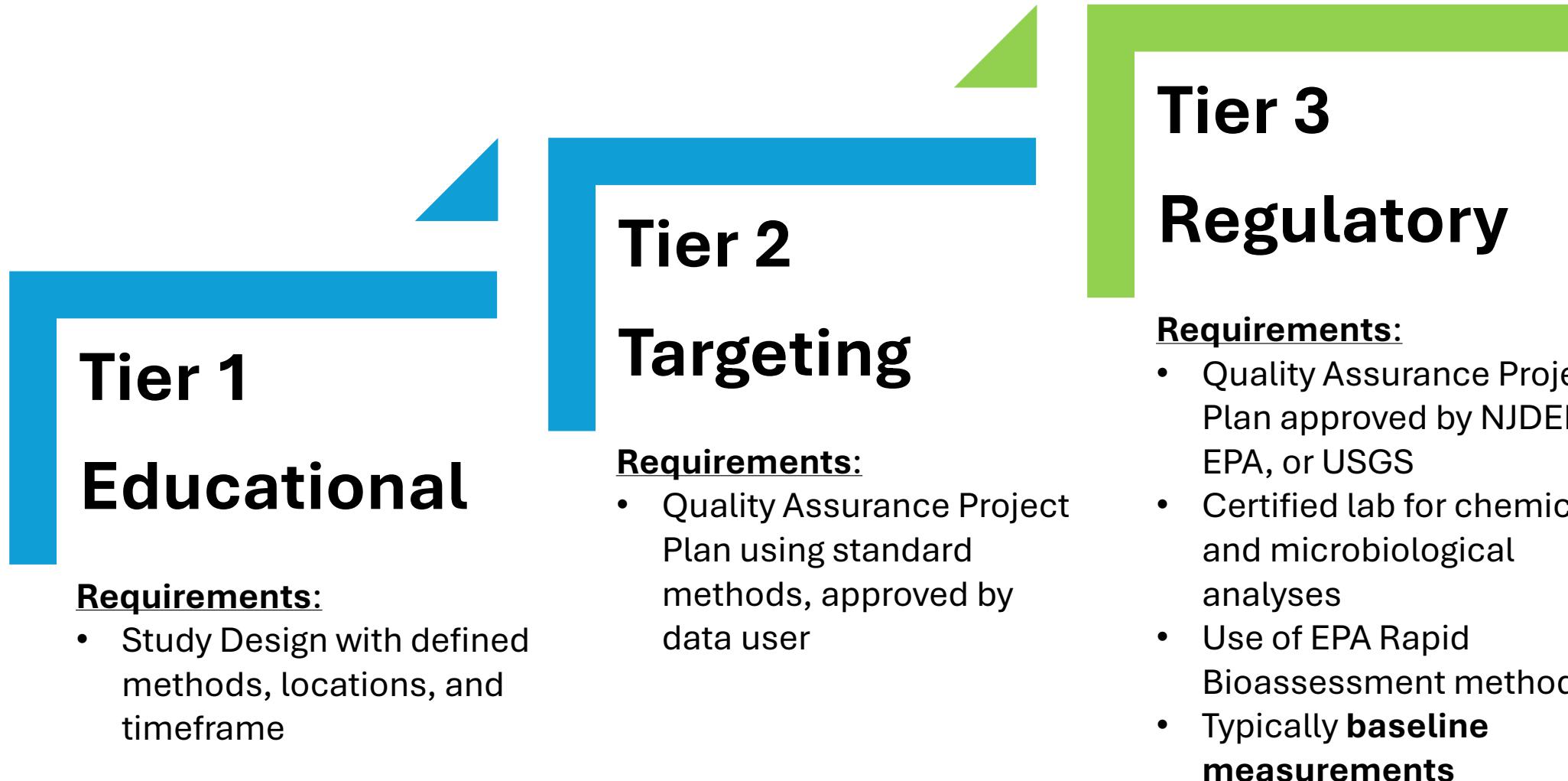
Tier 2 Targeting

Requirements:

- Quality Assurance Project Plan using standard methods, approved by data user

Tier 3 Regulatory

NJDEP Data Quality Tiers



Choosing Tier 2 Vs. Tier 3

Tier 2 Data Uses

- Project-specific monitoring
- BMP effectiveness monitoring
- Targeting installation of BMPs
- Targeting advanced monitoring
- Water quality report cards
- NJDEP Comprehensive Regional Assessments

Tier 3 Data Uses

- All Tier 2 Uses
- Regulatory assessments of water quality standard attainment

QAPPs are required for both tiers, but additional quality assurance measures are typically required for Tier 3 / NJDEP-approved QAPPs

NJ Watershed Watch Network Services

Tier 3 EPA Rapid Bioassessment Training and Accreditation

- Three online learning modules and in-person field training
- Testing administered for field methods and macroinvertebrate ID

Thermometer and Meter Calibration

- Digital thermometers and meters must be calibrated quarterly
- Alcohol-based thermometers can be calibrated annually

Data Formatting and Entry to Water Quality Exchange

- Next Reporting Deadline: August 31, 2026, for data collected before May 30, 2026

NJ Watershed Watch Network Grants Program

**Congrats to our 2024/2025 Grantees
for Tier 3 Monitoring!**

Great Swamp Watershed Association

GSWA QAPP and Tier 3 Reporting - Water Quality Data
Collection and Passaic River Downstream Expansion (\$10,000)

Musconetcong Watershed Association

Hances Brook Bacterial Study (\$7,500)

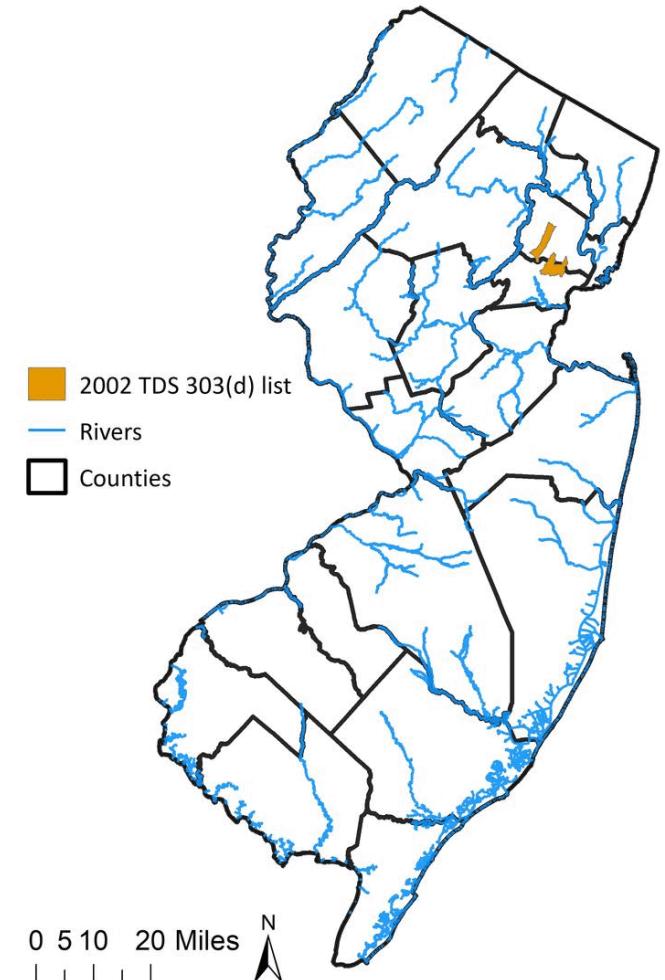
Sourland Conservancy

Sourland Stream Stewards (\$2,500)

NJ Salt Watch

Crowdsourcing Winter Chloride Monitoring

Median chloride levels have tripled since 1997, so we launched NJ Salt Watch in 2020 to learn more about the impacts of winter salting on our freshwaters



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Crowdsourcing Winter Chloride Monitoring

Median chloride levels have tripled since 1997, so we launched NJ Salt Watch in 2020 to learn more about the impacts of winter salting on our freshwaters

- We receive **greater geographic and temporal coverage of chloride data** during critical weather periods
- Volunteers receive **increased awareness of road salt issues and sense of ownership** over waters in their region



Join NJ Salt Watch!

Get your kits at the
check-in desk today
or order online at

njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch



Watershed Conference

February 27, 2026

We need **All Hands on Deck** to explore multidisciplinary approaches for watershed restoration and resilience.

The Watershed Conference will foster discussions and collaboration on regional issues affecting watershed health between stakeholders including:

- State, municipal, and county officials and staff
- Nonprofit organizations
- Environmental professionals
- Engineers and planners
- And more!

The 9th Annual NJ Watershed Conference



ALL HANDS ON DECK

Don't miss the 2026 NJ Watershed Conference on **February 27, 2026**

Multidisciplinary approaches for watershed resilience

The Watershed Institute

Registration opens on November 17!

Contact

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