



**NARRAGANSETT BAY
WATERSHED
COUNTS**
ECONOMY • ENVIRONMENT • EQUITY



Why?

- How clean is the water in Narragansett Bay? Is it getting better? Worse?
- Can I fish and swim in the river near my house?
- We have passed state and local open space protection bonds – how much open space do we have? How much do we need?



Making the Case

- Making connections (impervious cover, water quality, open space) and telling the story
- Exploring economic aspects – recognizing the region's interwoven **economic and environmental** assets.
- Report regularly – high profile
- Radio interviews, newspaper coverage



www.watershedcounts.org

- Democratic process
- Metrics are based on best available science
- Goal is for metrics to be linked to management actions
- Neutral voice
- Commitment to transparency – data on website

Watershed Counts Timeline

One-on-one Stakeholder Meetings	Jan - March	2010
Selection by RI Env. Monitoring Collaborative	June	
Beach Closures, IC, Flow, Invasives, Climate Change		
Metric development vetted through workshops	Sept - Dec	
Presentation at RI Statehouse	April	2011
Evaluation workshop	May	

Watershed Counts Timeline

Selection of additional metrics	June - Aug	2011
Freshwater quality, marine water quality, open space, resource economics		
Metric development vetted through workshops	Sept - Jan	2011/12
Presentation at RI Statehouse	April	2012
Evaluation workshops	June	
Regional Workshop	Sept 25	



Summary of Metrics

- Handout

A Few Lessons Learned

(from first two years)

- Stakeholder involvement KEY
 - Wide range of stakeholders invested significantly in project
 - All Watershed Counts information (Posters, report, website, Statehouse presentations) reflect this input
 - Met our goal to have a wide range of stakeholders using the same materials/information
- On-going and healthy tension between science, advocacy and communication. WC neutral stance key to success.
- Data accessibility – challenging but critically important