Cross-disciplinary water research for innovative & sustainable solutions

Water@UW-Madison supports groundbreaking interdisciplinary research. Our affiliates form a productive cross-disciplinary network of water researchers pursuing innovative, community-driven & policy-relevant research that serves the needs of the state, its people, and the environment.

ADVANCING INTERDISCIPLINARY WATER RESEARCH

Modern water challenges require un-siloed experts with knowledge integrated across disciplines. Water@UW-Madison works to connect creative interdisciplinary teams working on solutions for water health, sustainability, access, quantity and quality. Water@UW-Madison leverages the talent, creativity and drive across over 50 departments.

Enhancing our interdisciplinary network

As a grass-roots organization, Water@UW-Madison does a lot with a little. From symposia to project workshops, research training to interdisciplinary project support. Our staff and volunteers connect scholars, communities, students and staff to build our impact.

Structured **networking** events inspire projects, ignite collaborations and enhance UW-Madison's research and instructional enterprise.

UW-Madison & community participants discuss a lake health project.

Annual **poster sessions** and spring **symposia** draw engaged audiences to exchange new ideas and collaborate on cross-disciplinary water-related rwork.

Graduate student Cassie Ceballos explains her research to students and faculty.

BY THE NUMBERS

190
Faculty & staff affiliates from 50 departments

$1.6 M
Federal grants per scholar

2K Articles
Peer-reviewed, last 5 years

33K Cites
Citations in the last 5 years

APRIL 2026
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Freshwater@UW
Summer research program for undergraduates

WISCONSIN IS WHERE YOU WORK ON WATER

Freshwater@UW is a unique cross-site and cross-discipline research training program for undergraduates. The program facilitates immersive mentored reserach experiences alongside professional development and science communication practice.

Students on an orientation-week research cruise on the RV Neeskay.

Feshwater@UW provides life-changing early career research opportunities for undergraduates. Students study water engineering, chemistry, ecology, economics, history and other disciplines. Mentoring is the heart of the program, providing lasting impressions and positive experiences that reflexively build and broaden Wisconsin's freshwater workforce.

> *"[Freshwater@UW] was one of the best things I have done for my future. I learned so many skills...but also refined my presentation skills, data analysis techniques, and learned so much about grad school."*

BY THE NUMBERS

105 Students
trained since 2022

101 Mentors
Faculty and graduate students

90%
of students had a "good" or "excellent" experience

75%
increased their desire to work in Wisconsin water sectors

Water @UW-MADISON

The Flow Project
Art & Science collaboration to spark new perspectives

ART, SCIENCE & WATER FLOWING TOGETHER

The Flow Project helps undergraduate students create work inspired by water. At gallery showings statewide, the pieces spur transformative conversations about water research. Over 100 works have been viewed by thousands, helping to spur positive change and aligned work for a better future.

> *"My service performance [focuses on] building connections between art and science...Whenever I give outreach talks or table at events, we display [Flow art] to provoke conversation.*
> *-Faculty, Bacteriology*

Invisible Imprints
Gabriela Fuentes-Matamoros

The Wisconsin Idea

Water@UW-Madison supports research for and with our communities--work that makes a sustained positive impact on the world. We designe workshops and structured networking events to intentionally create positive collisions. We focus on building relationships that are the foundation for work that matters for Wisconsin communities.

BY THE NUMBERS

135
Works of Art
Inspired by Water

17 projects
Direct-funded community-driven research projects

84K Miles
Of rivers and streams

1 Million
Lake acres (17% of the state)