

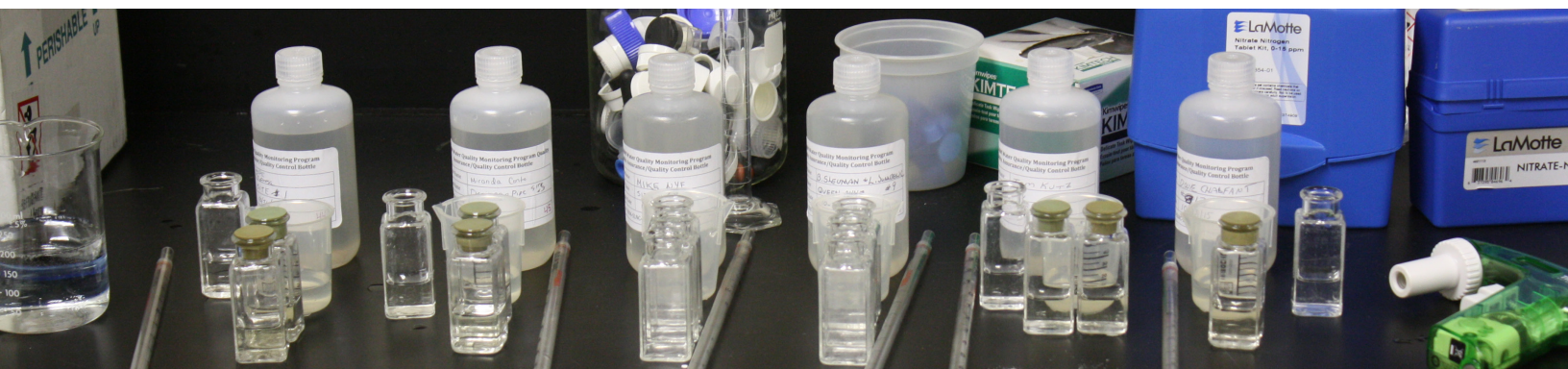
WATER FACTS

February 2016 - Who is ALLARM?

The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) is a nationally-renowned citizen science program at Dickinson College. ALLARM works with communities in the mid-Atlantic region and teaches them to use scientific tools to investigate stream health. In addition to full-time staff, ALLARM employs 15 student Watershed Coordinators who develop fundamental environmental, community engagement, science education and non-profit skills while working with communities to address water quality issues.

ALLARM leverages the power of communities and the power of science towards stream monitoring, restoration and protection efforts. Communities implement scientific studies investigating the water quality of their local streams, becoming volunteer monitors/citizen scientists. ALLARM works with communities to develop question-driven study designs, implements stream monitoring workshops for biological, chemical and physical parameters, provides program assistance, and trains volunteers to manage, interpret and use their data.

Data Credibility



ALLARM is the volunteer monitor quality control lab for Pennsylvania. To ensure volunteers are collecting credible data of known quality, ALLARM annually tests volunteer samples through split-sample analysis to verify that they are using their equipment correctly. ALLARM continually tests volunteer-friendly equipment to find the most accurate, precise and affordable techniques for monitoring assessments. ALLARM accredits around 125 volunteers monitoring 195 sites in Pennsylvania per year. To date ALLARM has tested 1,521 samples for 13,411 parameters, with monitors earning a 89% success rate.

