

# Center for Environmental Studies

## Promoting Community Outreach and Education

- » Fall Environmental Forum – Annual attendance of 200 to 400 people including students, faculty and community leaders. Past conferences have focused on building sustainable communities, production of and access to sustainably produced foods across North Carolina and sustainable furnishings.
- » Professional Development Workshop topics included the ecology and management of cougars, tracking, management of local food systems through gardens, inviting disadvantaged communities to the table through community gardens, environmental education and life cycle analysis for manufacturing.

## Championing Conservation

- » Haw River Riparian Corridor Environmental Assessment and Protection Plan for the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. This research guides NC conservation initiatives in this critical watershed.
- » Haw River Conservation Corridor project – a partnership between Elon University, the cities of Burlington and Graham and Alamance County. This work has led to the creation of seven new riverfront parks, 10 miles of recreational

trail and conservation of hundreds of acres of critical river front land.

- » Haw River Land Stewards – EPA grant to provide conservation opportunities to landowners throughout the Haw River watershed.
- » Shallow Ford Park, Altamahaw Paddle Access and Great Bend Park – three new parks on the Haw River for recreation and research.
- » Farm Incubator Program – Working with local governments, other universities and nonprofits to establish a training program to assist new farmers with a focus on sustainable food production and economic development.

## Outstanding Research

- » 53 students doing research and internships including: research on riverbank assessment, algal toxin production, wetlands ecology, invasive plant species, water contamination in Ghana, biogeochemistry of stream soils, economic impact of Haw River conservation projects, water/energy conservation projects, the new Shallow Ford County Park and Elon Forest.
- » Regional sustainable food systems – working with local and state government, other universities and nonprofits to evaluate the value of local foods in central

North Carolina and to assess resilience to economic stress from local foods.

- » Assessment of sustainable agriculture for the protection of water quality.

## Student Initiatives

- » Support for more than 30 student projects in Environmental Studies Senior Seminar, including establishment of new riverfront parks, assistance to farmers markets, business plans for non-profits, environmental impact statement and chicken tractors.
- » Elon Environmental Center at Loy Farm – The Center at Loy Farm is a place on the Elon campus that gives students the experience of growing food in sustainable ways while improving the environment. They can also design a built environment –places to live, play and work– that integrate with sustainable agriculture. Food from the farm is distributed to the community through Campus Kitchen. Local governments and nonprofits are partners in exploring a regional network for sustainable food production and consumption, with the Elon Environmental Center at Loy Farm a key piece.

