Plymouth State University’s CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Serving the region through environmental research, education, and public engagement
Environmental Research

We use applied research to better understand our environment and train tomorrow’s environmental professionals. Examples of our recent research projects include:

• Using isotopes to trace water sources,
• Understanding impacts of forest management on hydrology and soils,
• Researching the social, economic, and ecological impacts of second home development in the Northern Forest region,
• Monitoring vegetation changes along altitudinal transects in the White Mountains to help determine climate change impacts,
• Detecting trends in long-term hydrologic records of the northeast to understand past environmental change and current environmental legacies,
• Assisting watershed scale planning in the Lakes Region,
• Researching lake sediments for evidence of climate change.

About the Center

Established in 2004, Plymouth State University’s Center for the Environment (CFE) seeks to address environmental issues in northern New England through scientific research, education, and collaboration. We engage on- and off-campus partners to develop projects that provide science-based knowledge to assist in making informed decisions. We provide the next generation of educators, researchers, and leaders with a comprehensive environmental education that includes real-world research experience and fosters a thorough understanding of the natural, human, and built environment.

Our Facilities

The PSU campus and the surrounding Lakes and White Mountains regions provide state-of-the-art facilities and an outstanding natural research laboratory. The Boyd Science Center houses classrooms, student resources, and CFE’s Environmental Research Laboratory which provides water quality laboratory services for research and the community. The laboratory also serves as a satellite laboratory for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services’ Volunteer Lake and River Assessment Programs, allowing CFE to assist local organizations involved in lake and river monitoring.

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Public Engagement

Knowledge gained from research has the power to influence environmental policy and management, and CFE encourages its faculty and students to participate in public engagement projects as part of their research.

We strive to conduct research that is applicable to the development of efficient and effective environmental management and is of use to our partners. We also foster public engagement through hosting talks, workshops, and conferences that are open to the public to help share environmental science knowledge with a wider audience.

Education

CFE coordinates Plymouth State University’s Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy program in cooperation with the College of Graduate Studies. The program is built on the philosophy that addressing environmental issues requires both social and physical science perspectives. Students engage in interdisciplinary studies and field-based, applied research tailored to their educational goals that prepares them for careers as scientists or research managers in government agencies, nonprofit organizations, consulting firms, and academia. In addition, CFE’s expertise in engaging on- and off-campus partners creates opportunities for students to work with faculty on thesis and research projects in collaboration with our partners. Students are encouraged to conduct research in northern New England’s lakes and forests, including the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, a premier ecosystem science program.
The Center for the Environment

Learn More
To learn more about the Center for the Environment, visit plymouth.edu/center-for-the-environment/
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Plymouth State University is a regional comprehensive university offering a rich, student-focused learning environment with an enrollment of approximately 4,300 undergraduate and 3,000 graduate students. Founded in 1871 as a teacher training school, Plymouth State University is part of the University System of New Hampshire and accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.