For Immediate Release

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Legislature’s Environmental Committee to Hear Talk by Columbia Students on Community Experience Non-Emergency Water Conservation Programs

New City, NY (December 6, 2012) – Students from Columbia University will present the results of a research project that could assist in the development of a non-emergency water conservation program for Rockland County. The presentation will take place at the December 12, 2012 Meeting of the Legislature’s Environmental Committee at 6:00 p.m. The study was requested by Rockland County Legislator Alden H. Wolfe, Chairman of the Legislature’s Environmental Committee as a follow-on to a Spring 2012 study commissioned by Dr. Daniel Miller, Director of the County’s Bureau of Water Supply, that looked at potential water savings, costs and benefits of seven different possible water conservation programs.

The semester’s research was done by Columbia seniors enrolled in the Fall 2012 semester of the University’s Sustainable Development Workshop with the guidance of Adjunct Associate Research Scientist Stuart Braman of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Palisades, NY. The students created case studies on non-emergency outdoor water conservation ordinances adopted in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties in New York, Sharon, Massachusetts, Cary and Chapel Hill, No. Carolina, Orange Co., California and Santa Fe, New Mexico. The presentation will include case study highlights and conclusions from the group of communities studied. Specific attention will be paid to lessons that may be applied in Rockland County.

In addition, the students conducted a sensitivity analysis of the Spring 2012 results in order to assess the stability and volatility of water savings and cost effectiveness estimates, and an overview of the sensitivity analysis will be presented, as well.

“I’m looking forward to hearing about the possible opportunities to create the water conservation policy contemplated by our Comprehensive Plan,” said Legislator Wolfe. “It’s been a pleasure working with these highly motivated and intelligent students on such an important project. “

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