Partnership Agreement Progress Report

Broward County Environmental Protection & Growth Management Department and Broward County Public Schools

The Broward County Environmental Protection & Growth Management Department (EPGMD) believes that educating school age children about the environment and their role in preserving and protecting the natural resources for the future instills environmental stewardship at an early age. In an effort to support environmental education programs in Broward County, the EPGMD entered into a partnership agreement with Broward County Public Schools. The Broward County Public School system is the sixth largest school district in the nation with 283 schools, more than 39,000 personnel, and over 258,000 students enrolled this year.

How Can I Change the World by Reducing My Carbon Footprint?

On February 24, 2009 the Broward County Board of County Commissioners presented awards to the winners of the 2008 EnvironmenTile Contest: How Can I Change the World by Reducing My Carbon Footprint?

The contest, open to middle and high school students in Broward county public schools, asked students to create an illustration depicting solutions on ways they can minimize their impact on climate change by reducing their carbon footprint. Over 450 students participated in the contest. The students did an outstanding job coming up with ideas on how to reduce their carbon footprint, and selected tiles were posted on Broward County’s Environmental Kids Club web site Art Gallery at: www.broward.org/Kids/Pages/Default.aspx.

Winning students were from Lyons Creek Middle, Pioneer Middle, Sunrise Middle, South Plantation High, and Pompano Beach high schools.

Broward County Participates In the Annual Environmental Awareness Day at Pioneer Middle

- The Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division along with the Natural Resource Planning & Management Division staff participated in the Environmental Awareness Day at Pioneer Middle School on March 23, 2009.

- Diana Guidry talked to students about NatureScape practices and the importance of water conservation.

- Scott Strauss, Laurie Thomas and Matthew Anderson talked to students about climate change and actions they can take at home and school to help reduce the impacts of climate change.

Annual Walk to School Day Event at Quiet Waters Elementary

October 8, 2008, the Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division staff visited Quiet Waters Elementary to celebrate the annual Walk to School Day. Educational materials were distributed to over 6,000 students throughout the Broward County school district about air quality in Broward County, the Air Quality Index, and the benefits of alternative modes of transportation.
Students Receive Science Fair Air Quality Special Awards

Representatives from the Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division judged middle and high school projects at the February 13, 2009 Broward County Science and Engineering Fair to select the winners of the Air Quality Special Award. The award is sponsored by the Air Quality Program in an effort to foster science and engineering projects that relate to air quality issues, and alternative/renewable fuels and energy.

Winning students were recognized at the Broward County Science Fair Special Awards Ceremony held at New River Middle School. The Science Fair Air Quality Special Award winners were Courtney Summers from Pioneer Middle School for her project titled “Bio-Fuel from a Non Food Source,” and Dylan Wertzman from University School Nova Southeastern University for his project titled “Cost Efficient Solar Panels.” The evaluation criteria considered students’ ability to demonstrate:

- An understanding of how to use systematic, scientific processes to solve problems and reach conclusions
- An understanding of the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth
- An understanding that processes in the atmosphere help to shape the Earth
- A basic understanding of air quality issues including, but not limited to alternative energy, climate change, and air pollutants

Water Matters Day a Great Success!

The Seventh Annual Water Matters Day was held on March 14, 2009 at Tree Tops Park.

Over 3,400 native trees and plants were given out to over 3,000 Broward homeowners along with rain barrels, bottled water, rain gauges, and other giveaways. As in past years, kids enjoyed building planters at the Home Depot workshop and having their faces painted by clowns.

In conjunction with this year’s theme “Learn to Conserve”, Commissioner Kristin D. Jacobs announced the winners of a water conservation essay contest. Numerous schools hosted booths highlighting what they had learned through the NatureScape/Broward Schools Environmental Initiative. Thanks to all the volunteers for another successful Water Matters Day.

Natural Resources Planning & Management Division Sponsors Waterway Cleanup

On March 7, 2009, the Broward County Natural Resources Planning & Management Division (NRPMD) sponsored the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) 32nd Annual Waterway Cleanup.

Waterway Cleanup has long been recognized as Broward County’s largest environmental cleanup effort and annually draws broad-based business and community support and participation.

This year, over 2,000 volunteers worked to remove an estimated total of nearly 35 tons of debris from the county’s waterways.

This year the NRPMD coordinated the cleanup efforts at Delevoe Park in Fort Lauderdale and Holland Park in Hollywood. The sites included registration of volunteers and educational programs for Girl Scout troops. Volunteers learned about the importance of protecting our natural resources, water conservation and protection, recycling, and air quality.
Water Conservation Demonstration Projects

As a result of the School Board Partnership Agreement with the Broward County Natural Resources Planning & Management Division, the popular NatureScape Broward program worked closely with the School Board’s Facilities Division. Educational booths were sponsored by members of the local community and many of our partners in education. Community members installed drought tolerant plants on the middle school campus, educated themselves about more environmentally friendly actions that they can take in their everyday life and brought home some great give-a-ways. The native tree and plant giveaway was very popular. Learning about alternatives to pesticide use, students participated in hands-on activities such as releasing ladybugs. These projects included the creation of NatureScape learning gardens by students at each of the schools which were complemented by classroom lessons on NatureScape and additional landscaping work as part of scheduled facilities improvements.

The schools include:

- Seminole Middle
- Falcon Cove Middle
- Attucks Middle
- Silver Lakes Middle
- Lyons Creek Middle
- Driftwood Middle
- Pioneer Middle

Nova Middle School Student Wins Special Achievement Emerald Award

On April 28, a Special Achievement Emerald Award was presented by Broward County to Nova Middle School Student Samantha Seidman and her grandfather Jack Levy for the idea for the County’s new “Save Water Please” campaign. As reported in the January Schoolscapes, as a sixth grader, Samantha came up with the idea for a sticker that could be put on sinks and faucets to remind people to conserve water. The pamphlet containing the stickers also won a National Association of County Information Officers award. Thanks to Samantha’s idea, “Save Water Please” stickers and brochures are being seen throughout Broward County.

Broward County participates in the annual Environmental Educator of the Year Award Ceremony

The Broward County Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division sponsored the annual Environmental Educator, Student & Volunteer of the Year awards on October 17, 2008. Winners included Dr. Marilyn Zarogoza from Everglades High as the High School Educator of the Year, Lisa Dos Santos from Forest Glen Middle as the Middle School Educator of the Year, and Karen Gonzalez from Silver Ridge Elementary as Elementary Educator of the Year. Awards were also given to Elementary, Middle & High Students of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Photographer & Poet of the Year.

Environmental Character Education Newsletters

As part of ongoing efforts to educate children about the value of environmental protection, the Broward County Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division continues to incorporate character education into its outreach efforts. Every year the Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division administers a survey to receive feedback from the teachers. This year over 55 teachers provided excellent comments indicating that the newsletters are very useful, that they are developed in a teacher friendly way, and that they are a great way to encourage young minds to be aware of our environment. Visit the Character Education Newsletter website for more information at: http://www.broward.org/Kids/CharacterEducation/Pages/CharacterEducation.aspx.
Broward County Sponsors the “Green Footprints” Poster Contest

On June 23, 2009, Mayor Stacy Ritter and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners presented the awards to the winning students of the “Green Footprints” Poster Contest. The contest was open to elementary and middle school students in Broward County. Students were encouraged to creatively illustrate green actions to reduce their impact on the environment in several categories including carbon footprints, green buildings, energy efficiency and green shopping. Over 520 posters were received from 16 elementary and middle schools.

The winning posters were used to create the 2010 Clean Air Calendar.

The winning students include:

- Naomi Valdez – After School at Your Library Program
- Joseph Pierre – After School at Your Library Program
- Sebastian Galarce – Pembroke Pines Charter West
- Joely Arai – Park Trails Elementary
- Lucas Martinez – Home Schooled
- Vanessa Astorga – Tamarac Elementary
- Emily Gonzalez – Pembroke Pines Charter West
- Amanda Perez – Pembroke Pines Charter West
- Lauren Kousek – Sunrise Middle
- Leysha Caraballo – Pembroke Pines Charter West
- Jake Dudas – Sunrise Middle
- Pierce Deibele – Hollywood Academy of Arts & Science
- Melissa Gianello – Pembroke Pines Charter West

Climate Change Presentations at Various Schools

The Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division provided climate change educational presentations to several schools including:

- Virginia Shuman Young Elementary
- Harbordale Elementary
- Sheridan Park Elementary
- Pine Trails Elementary
- Margate Middle
- South Plantation High

Broward County Participates In Various School Career Days

Representatives from the Natural Resource Planning & Management Division and Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division were invited to attend Career Days at various schools throughout Broward County.

Some of the schools include:

- North Lauderdale Elementary
- McNicol Middle
- Broadview Elementary
- Margate Middle

Broward County Sponsors Miramar High School and South Plantation High School Alternative Fuel Programs

The Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division supported two educational alternative fuel programs this year: The Electric Vehicle Challenge and the South Plantation High Solar Knights. The EV Challenge is known as the country's premier Electric Vehicle competition. Miramar High School students designed and manufacture an electric vehicle as part of this inter-disciplinary educational program. The Solar Knights are a group of students from South Plantation High School's Environmental Magnet Program. The students built a solar-powered car and were the only Florida team to successfully complete the Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Challenge in Dallas, Texas.

Pollution Prevention, Remediation & Air Quality Division and Natural Resources Planning & Management Division

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