



2020 Prize Winners

Kindergarten - 2nd grade

1st place

Mount Pleasant Elementary School's Team Turner

Focused on reducing waste in marine habitats.

Wrote letters of support and gained over 100 pledges of support for a local bill that would ban balloon releases with few exceptions. Worked with school's Nutritional Supervisor to eliminate disposable lunch trays – estimated to save over 200,000 trays from landfills each year. Collected over 5,000 plastic items and donated to a local non-profit that will upcycle the materials. Wrote a book about balloon waste and shared with their community – gathered over 600 views.

2/9/20

Dear Senator Townsend,

In my opinion, I think you should pass the bill to not release balloons. It causes a lot of sea animal deaths. I cause's animal death because sea animals think the balloons are jelly fish and the string can strangle them. It is bad for the environment. Helium is a non-renewable resource. In my opinion you should pass the bill.
Lower Delaney

2nd place

Governor Charles C. Stratton School's Team S.O.S. (Save Our Seas)

Focused on reducing dependence on single-use items and distributing reusable products in their community.

Collected old tshirts, turned them into reusable shopping bags, and distributed to families in their school. Wrote letters to four local Wawas and Wawa Headquarters encouraging the elimination of single-use plastic products. Created a series of nine educational Public Service Announcements and a book to share with their community.

All About the Authors

We are 1st graders at the Governor Charles Stratton School in Swedesboro-Woolwich, New Jersey. This year we are participating in the Unless Contest with the Philadelphia Zoo. We have been learning all about how plastic pollution is harming our oceans and marine life. It is our responsibility to take care of our oceans. The future is ours and we can all "Make a Difference".



3rd place

Elane Brown's Class from Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Focused on reducing number of plastic bags used and educating on plastic pollution in habitats.

Collected 15 large garbage bags full of plastic bags and 20 2-liter bottles and created ecobricks. Use the bricks to help build a shed at a local playground. Made and distributed bracelets out of plastic bags to raise awareness. Presented to 6 classes at their school about waste reduction.



3rd - 5th grade

1st place

Brecknock Elementary School's Stormwater Stewards

Focused on educating their community on the effects of stormwater runoff on water quality and amphibian species.

Collected over 300 disposable plastic juice cups from the cafeteria and distributed as measuring cups for winter salt. Also collected laundry detergent caps to distribute as measuring cups next winter. Had a large social media presence with dedicated pages and videos. Raised over \$2,000 for Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. Performed water quality assessments in their community and partnered with local businesses to help reduce runoff pollution. Created a song and dance to help spread their message.



2nd place

Cumru Elementary School's Monarch Whisperers

Focused on reducing water pollution in their community and implemented a Leave No Trace campaign.

Conducted a water quality assessment in their local stream and determined a specific pollutant to focus on (grass clippings). Worked to have the stream become Certified Schoolyard Habitat. Spoke with local politicians and educated their community at numerous events about the harm of dumping grass clippings in the stream. Distributed a newsletter on the topic to their entire community. Conducted multiple stream cleanups and planted milkweed along the stream. Reached over 500,000 people with their campaign.



3rd place

Arrowhead & Woodland Elementary Schools' Team Tamarin

Focused on reducing waste of all kinds in their school, including plastic, energy, and water.

Worked with school's Aramark representative to eliminate Styrofoam trays, plastic straws, and single-use condiment packets from all schools in the district. These items were replaced with reusable alternatives or were made available upon request. Wrote letters to 27 local restaurants asking them to consider giving water glasses only to those who order them and making straws available by request. Ran an energy-saving contest between classes in the school and introduced "shake and fold" method of drying hands to reduce paper towel use. Impacted over 5,500 people.

6th - 8th grade

1st place

G.A.T.E. – Interboro School District's Boldting Bucs

Focused on alternatives to non-recyclable plastic items like toothbrushes and straws.

Worked with Brush With Bamboo to sell eco-friendly bamboo toothbrushes. Partnered with a local dentist to replace the plastic toothbrushes given out at the office - patients were so thrilled that they made the change permanent. Worked with school administration to replace plastic stirrers with wood and make straws available by request. Used social media, email blasts, and a custom website to spread their campaign. Reached over 5,000 people.



2nd place

Edgar Fahs Smith STEAM Academy's Humans2Ocean: The Power of Water Summit

Focused on working with their community members and business stakeholders to reduce water pollution and improve water quality in their local watershed.

Planned a large summit to educate on water pollution and effective measures at reducing it. Their event was shared on the United Nations website as an official event celebrating World Water Day. Shared a pledge with businesses, students, community members, and families. Held a series of stakeholder meetings with businesses, council members, and community members to assess issues and find constructive solutions.

3rd place

Grant School's Lil' Penguins

Focused on recycling and creative engagement within their school.

Created boxes to collect traditionally non-recyclable items to be sent to specialized companies to be upcycled or recycled. Visited local businesses to discuss reducing waste and recycling. Decorated and donated over 500 paper bags to a local grocery store to distribute to customers. Held engaging initiatives in their school, including Conservation Week, a green film festival, and a cardboard gingerbread contest.



9th - 12th Grade

1st place

Julie Ryan's Class from Haddon Township High School

Focused on refusal of single-use items through a multi-media campaign.

Sold reusable metal straws and used the money to create table placards discouraging plastic straw use that were donated to local restaurants. Partnered with Keystone Outdoor Advertising to create a billboard to spread their message. Worked to redesign the recycling program at their school. Partnered with a local Riverkeeper's Association to complete river cleanups. Estimated to have reached almost 3,000,000 people with their campaign.



2nd place

Carmen Lynn's Class from Maple Shade High School

Focused on creating monarch butterfly waystations and educating others about what can be done to aid in their migration.

Wrote to businesses and celebrities to raise awareness about the need for pollinator gardens and created a comprehensive social media campaign. Partnered with LAMAR advertising to display 4 digital billboards spreading their message. Partnered with local businesses to create monarch waystations and plant over 200 trees in their community. Encouraged local construction companies to plant pollinator gardens during their projects. Estimated to have reached almost 8,000,000 people with their campaign.



3rd place

The U School's Butterflies

Focused on planting milkweed and cleaning up their local communities.

Made seed bombs from scratch and held a "milkweed seed bombing" event at a local education center and spread the word on restoring habitat for pollinators. Collected disposable lunch trays from the cafeteria and created butterfly pins for students to raise awareness. Hosted multiple clean-up events at their schoolyard and local streams.

