



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Department Accepting Entries for Annual Environmental Poster Contest

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) announced today that it is now accepting entries for its 17th annual environmental poster contest for students in grades 6-8. This year's theme, "**Pollution: Be Part of the Solution**," encourages students to consider how their acts impact the environment and to think about how they can help reduce pollution in their daily lives.

"By learning how to have a positive impact on our environment, students can grow into advocates for a healthy environment. Even the smallest acts can have big results. Everyone can be part of the solution to pollution," said Allegheny County Health Department Director, Dr. Karen Hacker.

Students are encouraged to apply their environmental knowledge in demonstrating what they can do to help improve and protect the planet. Posters will be judged on creativity, strength of message and accuracy of information.

The deadline for entries is **Friday, March 11, 2016**. The top three winning students will receive a \$75 gift card to Barnes and Noble, and the teachers of the winning students will receive a \$50 gift card to Staples.

The contest is open to all students in Allegheny County, grades 6-8. Winners will be announced and honored in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations on April 22, 2016. The winning posters will be displayed on the Health Department's web site.

Teachers who would like to have their classes participate in the poster contest should contact the Health Department for details and entry forms. Information can be found online at <http://www.achd.net/air/postercontest.html>, or interested parties may contact Alaina Conner of the Health Department's Air Quality Program at **412-578-8106** or aconner@achd.net.

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