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CONTACT: Melissa Wade
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312
mwade@achd.net

EnviroStar Award and Environmental Poster Contest Winners Announced *Health Department Recognitions Commemorate Goals of Earth Day*

PITTSBURGH – In celebration of Earth Day, the Allegheny County Health Department today has announced the winners of the EnviroStar Award, which are recognized for their 2014 pollution prevention practices, and the winners of the 16th Annual Environmental Poster Contest.

“We are excited to announce the recipients of these two awards today,” said Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Health Department. “As people around the world are celebrating Earth Day by participating in environmentally-friendly activities, we celebrate the great things happening locally in Allegheny County. The businesses receiving the EnviroStar Award are local leaders in their commitment to our communities, and our environment. Additionally, the students who participated in this year’s Environmental Poster Contest are to be congratulated. Engaging children early and creatively is a wonderful way to develop a lifelong habit of thinking of ways to improve our environment.”

The EnviroStar Award winners are the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Giant Eagle and GetGo, and Chatham University. These businesses were chosen for projects that not only protect the environment and public health, but also benefit the bottom line of the business through waste reduction and conservation of resources.

Businesses and organizations that undergo pollution prevention activities, and incorporate sustainability into their business practices, are eligible for the award. Pollution prevention is defined as the act of reducing or eliminating waste at the source by modifying production processes, promoting the use of non-toxic or less-toxic substances, implementing conservation techniques, and re-using materials rather than putting them into the waste stream.

The winning organizations were honored for their following practices and activities:

The **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** implemented a compost program to reduce waste, completed an LED lighting retrofit throughout facility, installing energy-efficient hand dryers to remove paper towel waste, and participate in three demand-response events in the summer of 2014. By participating in the demand-response event, the Food Bank reduced its energy consumption which, in turn, reduced the stress on the electrical grid. For doing so, the Food Bank also received a financial incentive of \$1,263.99 for participating.

Giant Eagle and **GetGo** completed LED retrofits in all of their corporate locations, reducing their energy consumption. The company’s recycling program was expanded by 9% and they continue to replace their diesel fleet with CNG vehicles.

Chatham University utilized clean construction policies which reduced diesel particulate

pollution and other diesel exhaust emissions during the construction of the Eden Hall Campus, a self-sustaining, zero-emission facility.

To learn more about pollution prevention and how it can benefit the environment, and your business or organization's bottom line, visit www.epa.gov/p2/.

Three Allegheny County students from Grades 6-8 have been announced as the winners in the 16th Annual Environmental Poster Contest sponsored by the Health Department: Annaliese Siefert, Caroline Kenny and Jimmy Genco are the first, second and third place winners.

The theme of this year's contest was "The Power of ONE." Students were asked to create 11" x 17" posters to answer the question "How can ONE person make a difference for the ONE planet we all share?" All students in grades 6-8 throughout Allegheny County were encouraged to apply their environmental and ecological knowledge in demonstrating what they can do, themselves, to help improve and protect the planet. Posters were judged by the Pollution Prevention & Education Subcommittee, which made its choices based on creativity, strength of message, and accuracy of information.

Sixth grader Annaliese Siefert of Keystone Oaks Middle School took first place with her poster on protecting marine life by spreading awareness of the harms of pollution. Fellow sixth grader Caroline Kenny of Thomas Jefferson Middle School came in second place with her poster on picking up litter, showing how one hand can change the world. Third place went to Jimmy Genco, also a sixth grader at Saint Maria Goretti School. His poster was on taking a page from his grandfather, by collecting and reusing rainwater and protecting water quality.

The winning students will receive a \$75 Barnes and Noble gift card, and the teachers of the winning students, will receive a \$50 Staples gift card. The winning posters have been posted on the Health Department's website at www.achd.net/air/2015postercontest/.

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KAREN HACKER, MD, MPH, DIRECTOR
ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
542 FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 687-ACHD • FAX (412) 578-8325 • WWW.ACHD.NET

