



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2016

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Environmental Poster Contest and EnviroStar Winners Announced *Health Department Recognizes Local Students and Organizations*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) announced today the winners of the 17th Annual Environmental Poster Contest and the four organizations being honored with the 2015 EnviroStar award.

“It is with great pleasure that we announce the winners of these two awards today,” said Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department. “There are many great environmentally-friendly activities happening in Allegheny County. Today, we congratulate the students who participated in the Environmental Poster Contest. They’re developing life-long ideas and habits that will improve our environment. The businesses receiving the EnviroStar award are true examples for other industries in their commitment to find ways to work that will protect our environment.”

Four Allegheny County students from grades 6-8 have been announced as the winners in the 17th Annual Environmental Poster contest sponsored by the Health Department: Steven Costa, Lauren and Lindsay Dolence and Alyssa Sanchez are the first, second and third place winners.

The theme of this year’s middle school poster contest was “**Pollution: Be Part of the Solution.**” Students were encouraged to create posters depicting how they can help reduce pollution at home and at school as well as how they can encourage other to help keep our planet clean.

Seventh-grader **Steven Costa of St. Maria Goretti School** took first place in this year’s contest with his poster depicting a “green” superhero dedicated to reducing, reusing and recycling in order to reduce pollution. Eighth-graders **Lauren and Lindsay Dolence of Moon Area Middle School**, won second place with their poster supporting actions to reduce pollution, including reusable water bottles and grocery bags and meatless Mondays. Eighth-grader **Alyssa Sanchez of St. Maria Goretti School** came in third place with her poster which emphasizes simple ways we can all, individually, improve the environment. Alyssa took third place for her poster in 2014 as well.

The winning students will receive a \$75 Barnes and Noble gift card. 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/2016postercontest/.

The 2015 EnviroStar award winners are Phipps Conservatory, Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Carnegie Mellon University’s Scott Institute and ALCOSAN. 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, prompting the use of non-toxic or less toxic substances, implementing conservation techniques and reusing materials rather than putting the into the waste stream.

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

Phipps Conservatory received nation recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in their Green Power Leadership awards for 2015. Phipps was named one of the five Partners of the Year, the highest organizational honor in the Green Power Leadership Awards. At Phipps, 100 percent of electricity used is sourced from renewable resources. According to the EPA, winning applicants represent a beacon for other organizations to follow. They represent the best in class in terms of market impact and have a compelling story that is both unique and replicable to a wider set of market participants.

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania committed to large-scale recycling and waste reduction by operating a secondary recycling facility to reduce the amount of unsold items from entering landfills. Items that were not sold or could not be sold at other Goodwill locations in Southwestern PA are brought to the North Versailles location where items may be purchased before they are sorted for recyclers and commodities brokers. Since 2008, the organization's recycling has increase 79.5%. Despite opening seven more stores since 2010. Trash and dump fees have decreased from \$800,000 to \$391,000.

Carnegie Mellon University's Scott Institute, founded three years ago, has been a center of research for Carnegie Mellon University faculty members to help push forward the world's energy development in a clean and sustainable way. The Institute is focused on improving energy efficiency and developing new, clean, affordable and sustainable energy sources. Small seed grants are provided by the Institute to researchers to help their work and to prepare to compete for larger funding awards.

ALCOSAN took on several projects in 2015 to reduce energy usage, reduce waste and improve air quality. ALCOSAN estimates that it reduced its energy usage in 2015 by approximately 6% in comparison to the prior year, considering multiple fuels including electric, natural gas, diesel, and #2 fuel oil, were used. Associated carbon dioxide emissions were reduced by 1952.4 metric tons. ALCOSAN also engaged in several other activities to improve sustainability, such as a company-wide waste audit, the installation of a bike repair station, installation of cool roofs and purchasing electric vehicles.

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

To learn more about the ACHD Air Quality program visit <http://www.achd.net/air/index.php>.

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