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Governor's Awards for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research Announced at State Science Day 2011

The winners of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research at this year's State Science Day each received \$100 prizes from Ohio EPA. Winners are from the following counties:

- Seventh grade – Clermont, Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton;
- Eighth grade – Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin and Hamilton;
- Ninth grade – Carroll, Cuyahoga, Franklin and Huron;
- Tenth grade – Franklin, Lucas and Montgomery;
- Eleventh grade – Butler, Cuyahoga, Henry and Lake;
- Twelfth grade – Carroll, Delaware, Huron and Montgomery counties.

In addition to individual prizes, Ohio EPA provides \$10,000 annually as a major sponsor of the event.

State Science Day is organized and sponsored by the Ohio Academy of Science and is a state championship for science projects. The primary objective of State Science Day is to provide an opportunity for young students to demonstrate their abilities and interests in science through individual experimentation and research.

Each year, more than 35,000 students at more than 1,000 schools across Ohio participate in local science fairs and are judged on knowledge achieved, effective use of scientific method, clear expression, originality and creativity. Students who achieve superior ratings are invited to participate in district science fairs. More than 750 students from seventh through 12th grade, having each received a superior rating at a district science fair, participate in State Science Day and may be eligible for more than 90 different scholarships.

This year's projects and recipients for the 2011 Governor's Award for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research are:

7th Grade

First Place: Mr. Mitchell K. Pallaki, St. Raphael, Bay Village
The best oil absorbent clean-up analysis

Second Place: Ms. Abigail L. Klein, St. Columban, Loveland
Green laundry: Is it really worth it? An exploration of the use of grey water in agriculture

Third Place: Mr. Brian D. Cabell, St. Thomas More, Cincinnati
Are you drinking clean water?

Honorable Mention: Ms. Sophia C. Fisher, St. Andrew, Columbus
Which water purification method is most efficient in purifying ground water; filtration, distillation or solar water disinfection?

8th Grade

First Place: Ms. Olivia G. Kreft, Solon MS, Solon
Determining the best material to clean up an oil spill

Second Place: Mr. Joseph A. Hickman, John C. Dempsey MS, Delaware
A comparison of pond type and water quality

Third Place: Mr. Mark T. Meier, Our Lady Of Visitation, Cincinnati
Which type of light bulb is most energy efficient?

Honorable Mention: Ms. Katherine H. Evans, St. Paul, Westerville
From trash to gas: The effect of various biomass agents on biogas production

9th Grade

First Place: Mr. Advait A. Deshmukh, Upper Arlington HS, Upper Arlington
The effect of co-digestion on the generation of biogas in anaerobic digesters

Second Place: Ms. Anamika Veeramani, Laurel School, Shaker Heights
Combating bioterrorism: Determination of minimum pathogen DNA template concentration (MPC) for rapid, accurate and efficient detection of bioterror agents

Third Place: Mr. Kolin A. Petty, Bloom Carroll HS, Carroll
The relationship between land use, well characteristics and well water quality

Honorable Mention: Mr. Owen M. Dabek, Norwalk Catholic, Norwalk
Rad 1: Radiation and your home

10th Grade

First Place: Mr. Samer A. Alkhalili, Toledo Islamic Academy HS, Sylvania
The effect of iron on carbon sequestration in freshwater diatoms

Second Place: Ms. Leah S. Minor, Upper Arlington HS, Upper Arlington
The impact of varying the ratio of nutrients on the growth rate of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Third Place: Mr. Salahadin Mustapha, Toledo Islamic Academy HS, Sylvania
Algae eaters

Honorable Mention: Ms. Maria C. Bete, Carroll HS, Dayton
The effect of irrigation water on soil pH

11th Grade

First Place: Mr. Jackson A. Rettig, Patrick Henry HS, Hamler
Silver recovery from waste silver chloride

Second Place: Mr. John C. Boykin, St. Peter Chanel, Bedford
Can recycled rubber materials be used in concrete to reduce the carbon foot print, reduce environmental waste and reduce petroleum usage while improving the infrastructure of bridges, roads and buildings?

Third Place: Ms. Christina Z. Dong, (11th Grade) and Mr. Raymond M. Dong, (12th Grade), Stephen T. Badin, Hamilton
Microbial response to environmental change related to the construction of the Three Gorges Dam of Yangtze River, China

Honorable Mention: Ms. Angela M. Blatz, Mentor HS, Mentor
Analyzing the importance of ozone action days in Lake County

12th Grade

First Place: Ms. Ellen J. McDevitt-Stredney, Buckeye Valley Local HS, Delaware
A study of algae growth in ambient conditions vs enriched carbon dioxide

Second Place: Mr. Ryan W.D. Blanford, Carroll HS, Dayton
Harvesting the wind: A four-year study

Third Place: Ms. Caitlyn A. Loeffler, Bloom Carroll HS, Carroll
The effects of eutectic salts on trombe walls

Honorable Mention: Mr. Alexander W. Rospert, Norwalk Catholic, Norwalk
Microbial fuel cells

For more information, contact: Ohio EPA, [Office of Environmental Education](#) at (614) 644-2873.