

# 10 schools presented at the 14th annual Wheelabrator Environment and Education Symposium

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.

**Media**

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**HAMPTON, N.H. - May 12, 2008** - For 14 years, Wheelabrator's Symposium for Environment and Education has provided an opportunity for students to apply real-life solutions to issues they study in the classroom, while enjoying a rewarding and fun experience grounded in fundamental science. Each year participating school teams identify and research a specific environmental or public challenge in their communities.

"The Wheelabrator Symposium not only exposes our students to real life environmental topics, but it teaches them to develop skills in research, technology and public speaking that will help them in whatever field they choose," said John Cooley, a teacher at Peekskill Middle. "After 13 years of having students attend the Wheelabrator Symposium, it is by far the best example of Corporate America working with schools to help the leaders of tomorrow develop. It is an experience, which can't be duplicated in the classroom. Year after year students come back to talk about what the symposium team is doing this year."

Under the guidance of educators, the local Wheelabrator facility and support and resources from the community, the teams developed solutions to these challenges over the course of the school year. In the spring, 10 teams travel to Florida for two days where they present their projects and solutions to a panel of educators, politicians and community leaders.

After each presentation a panel of judges asked questions and gave advice to each team. This year's panel included Kids Ecology Corps Executive Director Emily Lagerquist, Broward Marine Biologist Patrick Quinn and Miami MetroZoo's Ron Magill.

"I try to ask them questions to make them think to ensure they're not just regurgitating the information they presented," Magill said. "They've been very impressive."

Immediately following all the presentations, Wheelabrator hosted an awards and recognition ceremony honoring each school team. "Wheelabrator is involved in numerous business and education partnerships, which provide innovative resources for environmental education to teachers and their classes," said Linda Sapienza, director of community relations. "Sponsoring and coordinating the symposium is part of Wheelabrator's philosophy of giving something back to our communities."

On day two, with the presentations behind them, the students spent the day learning and having fun at the Miami Seaquarium.

"My goal is to become a marine biologist, a wildlife biologist and a conservationist," said Kassandra Alfonso, eighth-grader at New River Middle School, located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "This was my second and last time at the symposium and I will miss attending it next year."

## About Wheelabrator Technologies

A wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management of Houston, Texas, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. is a world leader in the safe and environmentally sound conversion of municipal solid waste and other renewable waste fuels into clean energy. Wheelabrator's 17 waste-to-energy facilities provide safe waste disposal for towns and cities across the U.S. Wheelabrator also operates five independent power plants designed to generate electricity using an assortment of fuels, including waste wood, tires, waste coal, and natural gas. In addition to producing electricity, some of these facilities also produce steam sold to nearby government and commercial

establishments. Wheelabrator's 22 facilities have a combined electric generating capacity of 896 megawatts, enough energy to power more than 985,000 homes. To learn more, visit [www.wheelabratortechnologies.com](http://www.wheelabratortechnologies.com).

### **About Waste Management**

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more, visit [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) or [www.thinkgreen.com](http://www.thinkgreen.com).

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