

Student scientists give hope to famed environmentalist Fabien Cousteau



Students unveiled green community projects at annual Symposium

HAMPTON, N.H. (MAY 31, 2013) - Third-generation ocean explorer Fabien Cousteau applauded the environmental work of 150 middle school students at the 19th Annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education held earlier this month in Sunrise, Fla.

"The Wheelabrator Symposium students have proven themselves as passionate environmentalists, serving their communities by paving the way for others to follow," says Cousteau. "It is our obligation to provide support and guidance to the next generation and I commend Wheelabrator for their commitment every year to these students, encouraging environmental citizenship and providing them with resources to make a tremendous impact."

The Wheelabrator Symposium served as the capstone to a project students began six months ago. With help from their teachers and employees of Wheelabrator Technologies, students from 15 middle schools in Florida, New England and the Mid-Atlantic identified environmental issues in their communities and then dedicated months of preparation and service to finding and implementing solutions.

Expanding community recycling, protecting indigenous animals, developing greenhouses and replenishing shorelines are just a few of the endeavors.

Cousteau, founder of Plant A Fish™ and grandson of famed ocean explorer Jacques Yves Cousteau, gave the keynote at the awards dinner following the student presentations. This 2013 Symposium marks Cousteau's third year participating as guest speaker and audience member.

The Plant A Fish™ founder even took to both of his Twitter accounts to praise the enthusiastic and motivated young environmentalists, deeming them as "champions" with practical solutions that blew him away and gave hope. Follow Cousteau on Twitter @FCousteau and Plant A Fish™ @PlantAFish. Follow Wheelabrator Technologies on Twitter @WM_WTI.

Wheelabrator formed the Symposium program in 1994 to demonstrate that responsible environmental awareness must be grounded in fundamental science. Since then, more than 3,000 students have participated in the program.

"Wheelabrator commends the innovative environmental projects of our Symposium students and salutes their energy and commitment to achieving sustainability," said Wheelabrator President Mark Weidman. "The program provides an invaluable experience, and Wheelabrator employees are inspired by the positive influence our future scientific leaders have on their communities."

Wheelabrator provides participating schools with both in-kind and financial support as well as a monetary donation at the conclusion of the event. In addition, students can later qualify to earn a four-year scholarship through Wheelabrator's partnership with Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

The students closed the trip by attending a Miami Marlins vs. New York Mets baseball game, before returning home with their new knowledge and passion for green living to spread throughout their communities.

About Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. is a leader in the safe and environmentally sound conversion of MSW 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 four 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 21 facilities have a combined electric generating capacity of 853 megawatts, enough energy to power more than 900,000 homes. To learn more, visit www.wheelabratortechnologies.com.

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