

News Release



May 11, 2015
Release Number: 3907

Waste Management Awards Charleston County with 2015 Think Green® Grant *Thirty-Nine Keep America Beautiful Affiliates and Partner Organizations Receive Grants to Support Local Community Improvement Initiatives*

Keep America Beautiful, the nation's leading nonprofit that builds clean, green and beautiful communities, and Waste Management recently announced that Charleston County Environmental Management (CCEM) has been awarded a 2015 Waste Management Think Green® Grant of \$5,000. Charleston County's Think Green® Grant is one of 39 awarded to Keep America Beautiful community-based affiliates and partner organizations across the country.

The Waste Management Think Green® Grants are part of the environmental services company's commitment to encourage the development and sustainability of environmental solutions that improve a community's environment. The merit-based grant program supports projects that are implemented to address local community needs.

CCEM is using its Think Green® Grant to sponsor projects that will provide students the opportunity to proactively engage themselves in evaluating and responding to environmental concerns facing our coastal environment. Proposed projects will be evaluated and funded based on the capacity for students to cultivate greater responsibility and awareness of resource conservation in their school and community. Providing students with opportunities to pursue sustainable projects fosters the cultural changes needed to sustain our environment. CCEM will work closely with local environmental organizations to provide ideas and inspiration for student projects.

"Connecting students with opportunities to learn and actively engage in sustainability projects generates conversations at home and among their peers, which serves to raise awareness of environmental issues happening within their own communities and around the world," said Bronwyn Santos, Greening Schools Representative for Charleston County.

The goals and objectives for this grant funding program are to:

- Engage students in the practice of environmental stewardship in their community.
- Create opportunities to engage local communities and inspire peer-generated interest in local conservation practices.
- Achieve greater awareness of sustainability challenges in our local coastal environment.
- Inspire critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and empathy to understand diverse perspectives and cultures when considering local, national, and world sustainable issues.

"Waste Management is proud to partner with Charleston County on this project, providing our support for another one of the many wonderful environmental initiatives undertaken by the County," said Russ Hightower, local Waste Management representative.

This is the ninth year Waste Management and Keep America Beautiful have collaborated on community-based grant initiatives. During that time, Waste Management and Keep America Beautiful have awarded more than \$1.3 million in grant monies to affiliates and partners in support of more than 205 community service projects and programs

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- Prepared by Charleston County Public Information Office -