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Charleston County Sponsors Student Video Contest to Promote Recycling in Schools

<u>Charleston County Government's Environmental Management Department</u> (CCEM) is partnering with <u>Charleston County</u> <u>School District</u> (CCSD) to sponsor a student video contest to increase recycling awareness and participation in local schools. This video contest is part of a larger partnership between CCEM and CCSD, the County's Greening Schools Program, launched in 2011.

The <u>video contest</u> will empower students and facilitators to take action toward conserving resources, reducing pollution and increasing the life of the County's landfill by encouraging increased recycling participation in their schools. The contest will also serve as a learning tool for participating students by providing lessons in ecology, art, drama, technology, marketing and team work.

"Students offer a unique perspective. No one is better suited to influence the behaviors of their peers or serve as a catalyst for change in the schools," said Charleston County's Greening Schools Representative, Bronwyn Santos.

Students will be judged on the creativity, overall quality, and persuasiveness of their videos. The public will be able to vote for their favorite submission on the <u>contest website</u>. Winners will be chosen based on a combination of public voting and scoring by a panel of judges.

The top three finalists for each grade division (elementary, middle, high) will receive cash prizes. The student members of the first place teams from each division, in addition to receiving cash prizes, will have the opportunity to appear in a professionally produced CCEM commercial that will air on local television channels.

"It is vital to motivate and educate young individuals about responsible decision-making," said Charleston County School District's Sustainability Coordinator, Maggie Dangerfield. "The objective of this contest is to help students further develop and establish positive, lifelong recycling habits which can be demonstrated in their community and taught to others."

The County's Environmental Management Department has outlined the contest rules and guidelines and provided students and their facilitators with a list of <u>helpful resources</u> to make a successful video submission.

For more information and to learn how to get involved, contact Bronwyn Santos, Charleston County Environmental Management's Greening Schools Community Representative at (843) 720-7111 or <u>bsantos@charlestoncounty.org</u>.

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