

The Boston Globe

December 9, 2007

Latin students go green to beat a dozen schools in competition

Green is their favorite color.

Boston Latin School students recently beat out 12 schools from New York and some in Massachusetts in the first Do Something: KeySpan Foundation Environmental Sustainability Competition.

The competition's goal was to inspire service projects that reduce the environmental impact of individuals and schools. All efforts had to be designed and led by students.

"Our mission is to inspire and empower young people to get involved in their communities and take actions," said Jordyn Wells, grants and clubs associate at Do Something.

More than 50 students in grades 7 to 12, part of Boston Latin's Youth CAN, or Climate Action Network, planned and led schoolwide sustainability projects in October.

Hannah Mogul-Adlin, an 11th-grader and member of Youth CAN, said many initiatives were created in hope of continuing them after the competition.

Projects included setting up a recycling program in the cafeteria, in which students collected 2,000 cans and bottles, launching a campaign encouraging students and teachers to turn off lights and computers when not in use, and creating a paper-recycling contest between grades.

What the students "did was phenomenal in the amount of time they had," Wells said. "The number of activities and number of people they involved was outstanding."

Another aspect of the project was a partnership with the Think Outside the Bottle campaign. Along with pledging to drink tap water in reusable bottles, students created public service announcements for the school TV station and the Think Outside the Bottle website.

For winning the competition, Boston Latin School received a \$1,000 grant, which Youth CAN intends to use to plan the second annual Global Warming Youth Summit at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the spring.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS