



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION AWARD WINNERS**

ISELIN, NJ – May 17, 2013 – Three schools in Middlesex County, NJ are being recognized for their efforts to increase environmental awareness. Middlesex Water Company sponsored an Environmental Champion Award contest to recognize schools in its service area that are engaging students in programs that help to protect and preserve the environment. Middlesex Water will be presenting each school with a \$250.00 Environmental Champion Award for their special initiatives.

The 2013 Environmental Champion Schools are: **Carl Sandburg Middle School** in Old Bridge, NJ. The Environmental Club of Carl Sandberg Middle School spearheaded numerous environmental awareness projects including: a school wide poster and audio campaign which provided information on how students can reduce their individual carbon footprints and a beach clean-up as part of a Clean Communities Student Exchange Day. Students also created jewelry from recycled tabs from aluminum cans which were then fashioned into bracelets, key chains and lanyards and sold – the proceeds were then donated to the American Red Cross to assist victims of Hurricane Sandy. Middlesex Water congratulates members of the school’s Environmental Club and Vicki Broder, Environmental Club advisor.

**The Wardlaw-Hartridge School** in Edison, NJ was selected for its Water Fountain Replacement Project. The school’s Green Club was seeking a way to reduce waste created by the number of disposable plastic water bottles generated by students. Older water fountains were replaced with “water bottle filling stations,” equipped with digital meter read-outs that show how many plastic water bottles have been replaced by students and faculty members using tap water. Students promoted their project through videos, bilingual fliers, and selling reusable water bottles to help build awareness for their initiatives. Middlesex Water congratulates the school’s Green Club and nominator Barbara Drake, Coordinator of Environmental Sustainability.

**Oak Ridge Heights School #21** in Colonia, NJ is receiving special recognition for its “Show Us Your Green Lifestyle Challenge.” This initiative, inspired by Woodbridge Township’s commitment to sustainability practices, encouraged students to aspire to be more “green” through multi-media projects, assemblies and Student Council members serving as Green Ambassadors. Students became “green celebrities” by making pledges to observe environmentally friendly actions. Middlesex Water congratulates the Green School’s Committee, Student Council and teacher Cheryl-Lynn Mecka.

Middlesex Water is continually working to raise awareness of the need to preserve our natural resources for future generations and we know many schools in our service area share this commitment,” said Bernadette M. Sohler, Vice President-Corporate Affairs. “We sponsored this contest to recognize those schools that are championing environmental awareness and to celebrate their unique and engaging initiatives,” she added.

As part of its education outreach efforts, Middlesex Water Company provides speakers for schools on a wide range of topics including the water cycle, the water treatment process and wise water use. To learn more, call 732-638-7510.

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