

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJMC/MEC Announce Bergen County Academies Winner of Diorama Design Contest

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) and the Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) today announced that a team of students from the Bergen County Academies in Hackensack has won an academic competition to help design a new diorama in the Environment Center. The NJMC and MEC, which co-sponsored the Diorama Design Contest, will review the students' ideas for incorporation as they explore renovations to its existing 20-year-old exhibit.

“The NJMC and MEC congratulate the Bergen County Academies team on its great accomplishment. The judges were very impressed with the students' advanced, comprehensive and creative design plan,” said NJMC Executive Director Marcia Karrow. “We commend all the schools who participated in the competition. Each proposal exhibited a high level of dedication and knowledge, and the students involved have very bright futures ahead of them.”

Students from Hudson County High Tech High School in North Bergen were named First Runner-Up. Teams from the Bergen County Technical High School campuses in Paramus and Teterboro received honorable mentions. The Environment Center, located in DeKorte Park, is a NJMC facility operated by Ramapo College educators. Presentations were judged by a dozen MEC educators and NJMC staff, including scientists and renewable energy experts.

The teams' submissions were based upon the concept, “Tap into the Potential of Renewable Energy.” The Bergen Academies plan, “A Photon's Path to Sustainability,” follows the trail of a photon coming from the sun as it interacts with molecules, cells and other materials to create energy. A photon is the smallest unit of light and the basis of all energy. The students' design proposal features interactive exhibits including a touch-screen solar panel diagram that shows the flow of energy and electricity within a solar cell and on the electrical grid.

About the NJMC

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is the planning and zoning agency for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District, which includes parts of 14 towns in Bergen and Hudson counties. The Commission's objectives include the promotion of renewable energy, environmental preservation and enhancement, and fostering economic growth and development.

About the MEC

The Meadowlands Environment Center was formed to increase awareness and enjoyment of the Meadowlands' vital ecosystem. The NJMC and Ramapo College of New Jersey entered into a partnership in 2003 to develop a comprehensive environmental education program for schools and the general public. Today some 15,000

students in grades K-12 participate in the MEC's educational programming each school year and thousands of people of all ages attend public environmental education workshops.

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