



## News Release

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## **Six New Jersey Schools Recognized For Innovative Climate Action Projects**

*Area high school and middle school students showcase their approach to address the ongoing impacts of climate change*

**TRENTON, NJ**– Atlantic City Electric, Exelon, the Drumthwacket Foundation, and Sustainable Jersey honored six student teams for their NJ Student Climate Challenge action projects, which offer innovative approaches to help address the ongoing issue of climate change. Student teams, from high schools and middle schools across New Jersey, were tasked with developing and executing a school or community-based climate action project and creating a digital story video to capture the approach and impacts of their climate project. Student team winners and their teacher mentors were recognized on June 5, 2023, at an awards ceremony hosted by the Drumthwacket Foundation with New Jersey First Lady Tammy Murphy.

“It is an honor to host and recognize the future leaders of our green economy at this year’s NJ Student Climate Challenge Action Project Awards,” said First Lady Tammy Murphy. “New Jersey is a proven leader in addressing our nation’s climate change crisis, having been the first state to incorporate climate change education across our K-12 learning standards. As we move closer to our goal of reaching 100 percent clean energy by 2035, I am relieved to know the climate literate leaders of tomorrow are being trained today here in New Jersey.”

The NJ Student Climate Challenge is a program, funded by Atlantic City Electric and its parent company, Exelon, that was created to foster the growing role young people are playing in addressing climate change. The initiative builds on New Jersey’s efforts to increase climate literacy among young people across the state, including its first-in-the-nation effort to incorporate climate change education across all K-12 state academic standards.

“The creativity and innovation these students have put into their project submissions shows just how passionate our youth are about addressing the impacts of climate change and creating a cleaner environment for future generations,” said Doug Mokoid, region president for Atlantic City Electric. “We created this program as a pathway for students to engage in climate education and

have hands on opportunities to make a change in their community right now. The participants clearly demonstrated the bright future we have and should be applauded for their innovation and impact.”

### **High School Category Winners**

- *First Place:* Bug Power! Team from **Princeton High School**, Princeton Public Schools, Mercer County
- *Second Place:* Planet-Over-Profit Team from **South Plainfield High School**, South Plainfield School District, Middlesex County
- *Third Place:* Wall High School Environmental Team from **Wall Township High School**, Wall Township Public School District, Monmouth County

### **Middle School Category Winners**

- *First Place:* Climate Action and Sustainability (CAST) Team from **Rosa International Middle School**, Cherry Hill Public Schools, Camden County
- *Second Place:* Carbon Catchers Team from **Howell Township Middle School South**, Howell Township Public Schools, Monmouth County
- *Third Place:* Edson’s Engineers Team from **Ocean Township Intermediate School**, Ocean Township School District, Monmouth County

Winners were selected by a panel of judges that included educators and representatives from local non-profits, state agencies and the partner organizations. Winning schools received a grant to support their climate education initiatives.

The [NJ Student Climate Challenge](#) was open to New Jersey public schools with students in grades 6-12 across the state. Middle and high school students are encouraged to identify and complete a school or community project to address a cause or impact of climate change. The students then create a short digital story video to highlight what they accomplished. Students participate through their respective schools. There is no cost to schools or students to participate.

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### **About Drumthwacket Foundation:**

*The Drumthwacket Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit, non-partisan organization. Its mission is to inspire pride and enhance civic awareness for all New Jerseyans by restoring Drumthwacket, a nationally landmarked historic site and the official residence of NJ Governors, and by educational and cultural activities that recognize the rich diversity and ongoing contributions of New Jersey’s communities and its residents.*

### **About Atlantic City Electric:**

*Atlantic City Electric is a unit of Exelon (Nasdaq: EXC), a Fortune 200 company and the nation’s largest utility company, serving more than 10 million customers. Atlantic City Electric provides clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy service to approximately 565,000 customers in southern New Jersey.*

**About Exelon:**

*Exelon Corporation (Nasdaq: EXC) is a Fortune 100 energy company with the largest number of electricity and natural gas customers in the U.S. Exelon does business in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Canada and had 2019 revenue of \$34 billion. Exelon serves approximately 10 million customers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania through its Atlantic City Electric, BGE, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco subsidiaries.*

**About Sustainable Jersey for Schools:**

*[Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#) is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey. It provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To date, 66% of New Jersey school districts and 1,093 schools are participating in the program Sustainable Jersey has provided over \$7.4 million in grants to municipalities, school districts and schools for community-based projects that create healthy and sustainable communities in New Jersey. Follow Sustainable Jersey for Schools on Twitter @SJ\_schools.*