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City of Miami Mayor Receives Water Savings Reports from Students

Statistics, poems and presentations at Miami City Hall as month-long program concludes

MIAMI, Fla.—Students from 13 schools across Miami-Dade County today presented reports from a month-long water measurement and conservation exercise at Miami City Hall.

City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, along with Diane Wood, president of the National Environmental Education Foundation, heard reports from more than 100 high school, middle school and elementary students.

"I am proud of all of our students who participated in this activity and who understand that water is one of our most valuable resources," said Mayor Manny Diaz. "It is important that we educate our children in conserving this precious resource, and teach them to appreciate our planet and our environment."

Students spent the last month completing projects focused on water as part of "Be Water Wise Miami." The program encouraged students to examine water usage both at school and at home, finding strategies for conservation.

"It's inspirational to see students come up with solutions in their communities," Wood said. "Water conservation is especially critical in South Florida and the Miami area. The work of these students – based on good science, a commitment to conservation and a dash of passion – could have an impact on water consumption in Miami and beyond."

"Be Water Wise Miami" took place as part of [National Environmental Education Week](#), a program involving more than 2,500 schools and partner organizations from around the country. More than 4.5 million students participated in a week of environmentally themed lessons and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, parks, zoos, museums and aquariums.

The National Environmental Education Foundation also announced a new grant program inspired by the Be Water Wise program. The grants will be awarded to schools for water conservation curricula and activities, including water-wise gardening projects, rain barrels, water-quality testing and materials for school or home water audits.

Grants will be awarded in partnership with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's [Fairchild Challenge](#), a program designed to foster interest in the environment among students. Grants will be announced in

November for projects completed by April 2010. For more information about the grant program, visit: http://www.eeweek.org/assets/files/Miami/miami_mini_grant.pdf.

The Wal-Mart Foundation is the national sponsor of EE Week.

For more information about EE Week and Be Water Wise, visit <http://www.eeweek.org>.

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