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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*



*Amanda Orozco, student at Henry Flagler Elementary School, hands copies of her class' presentation to Mayor Manny Diaz and NEEF President Diane Wood. Photo Credit: Jorge R. Perez/City of Miami*



*Students from Kinloch Park Middle School make their presentation about the importance of water conservation at Miami City Hall as Mayor Manny Diaz looks on. Photo Credit: Jorge R. Perez/City of Miami*

**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.

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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. Teachers from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools were on hand as well after leading a month of environmentally themed lessons.

“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,” Diaz said. “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](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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The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs -- Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge® and Health & Environment -- we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit [www.neefusa.org](http://www.neefusa.org).