



Be water wise Atlanta!

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Atlanta students launch innovative environmental education project** *Students at Burgess-Peterson Academy kick off Be Water Wise Atlanta*

**ATLANTA, Ga.** — Students, with help from guests from the city of Atlanta, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, educational leaders and other organizations, undertook a water measurement water activity at Burgess-Peterson Academy to learn how to conserve resources and save money for their school as part of an innovative new program, *Be Water Wise Atlanta*. The school is one of 14 participating in the program, which involves students from kindergarten to high school.

"Atlanta is no longer in a drought, but that doesn't mean that we can return to previous wasteful ways," said City of Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed in a message about the program. "Droughts are cyclical, and, sooner or later, we will face another one. That's why I think it is imperative that we think of water conservation not as an occasional hardship but as new way to live our lives...*Be Water Wise Atlanta* offers our children an excellent start in this learning process."

A project of the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#) (NEEF) in partnership with the Atlanta Public Schools and Johnson Controls, Inc., *Be Water Wise Atlanta* includes math, science and language activities that focus on water conservation. Today's water measurement activity is the first part of an 18-month environmental education program that engages students to research and develop strategies to save water – and money – at their schools.

*Be Water Wise Atlanta* is a signature event of [National Environmental Education Week](#). EE Week, which runs from April 11-17, features field trips, class exercises, outdoor classrooms, school garden planting and other activities at schools, nature centers and museums. This year's focus on the connection between water and energy will help K-12 students better understand how usage of each affects the other. Millions of students around the country will participate.

Atlanta faces unique challenges in water management. According to the U.S. Geological Society, Atlanta's primary water sources are small and greatly affected by droughts. With more than five million inhabitants, the metro area has only one sizeable water stream, the Chattahoochee River. Sixteen counties that make up the North Georgia Water Planning District use 652 million gallons of water per day, most of which is consumed by households.

Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall said *Be Water Wise Atlanta* offers an opportunity for students to make “real world connections” in the classroom.

“The *Be Water Wise* event at Burgess Peterson Academy is the latest example of the district’s Math and Science Initiative at work,” Hall said. “APS has retooled classroom instruction by delivering hands-on activities that help students make real-world connections. With its Student Wellness Ambassadors and Farm to Classroom projects, Burgess Peterson reflects our efforts to cultivate critical-thinkers who are dedicated to improving the world around them.”

“*Be Water Wise Atlanta* gives students a chance to solve real-world problems that impact their schools and homes,” said Diane Wood, president of the National Environmental Education Foundation. “The program exemplifies the possibilities and power of environmental education.”

“Educating Atlanta’s youth on the importance of water conservation needs to be a priority in our schools,” said Felicia McDade, K-12 regional education manager, Johnson Controls Building Efficiency. “Programs like *Be Water Wise Atlanta* allow students to learn about practical water solutions that have lasting impact in the community. Johnson Controls is proud to support this initiative.”

Johnson Controls provided Atlanta Public School teachers and custodians with training and materials in February, which also featured representatives from Georgia Project WET. Students will assess water use at schools by inspecting faucets, water fountains and other plumbing fixtures for flow rates and leaks. After analyzing results, students will offer water conservation ideas to city officials.

Fourteen Atlanta-area schools will take part in the project. Partnering organizations include: the *Environmental Protection Agency Region 4*, the *Georgia Department of Natural Resources*, *Johnson Controls, Inc.*, *Georgia Project WET*, *Conserve Water Georgia*, *Georgia Green and Healthy Schools*, the *Georgia Aquarium*, the *Center for Education Integrating Mathematics, Science and Computing (CEISMC) at Georgia Tech*, the *City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management*, and the *City of Atlanta Office of Sustainability*.

Johnson Controls supports *Be Water Wise Atlanta* with a financial donation and staff engineers, who assist Atlanta Public School teachers and custodians to help students perform hands-on water measurement activities.

At the conclusion of the *Be Water Wise* program, students will present their water conservation findings at an assembly before city leaders.

Participating *Be Water Wise Atlanta* schools:

#### Elementary

A. Philip Randolph Elementary School  
Burgess-Peterson Academy  
Dunwoody Elementary School  
E. Rivers Elementary School  
G.A. Towns Elementary School

#### Middle

Bunche Middle School  
B.E.S.T. Academy (Business Engineering Science Technology)  
Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy  
Samuel M. Inman Middle School  
Kennedy Middle School

## High

Carver High School (Health Sciences and Research)  
Frederick Douglass High School  
South Paulding High School  
Daniel McLaughlin Therrell High School

For more information about *Be Water Wise Atlanta*, visit:

[http://www.eeweek.org/be\\_water\\_wise/atlanta](http://www.eeweek.org/be_water_wise/atlanta)

NEEF is grateful to the Walmart Foundation for their support of *Be Water Wise Atlanta*.

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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).

**National Environmental Education Week** connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment.

### **About Johnson Controls**

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