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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Environmental Education Foundation Announces Green Prize in Public Education

Foundation will award \$10,000 to innovative K-12 public school

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Public schools around the country that have successfully implemented innovative and sustainable school greening programs have an opportunity to be recognized for their efforts.

The National Environmental Education Foundation, with major support from the National Education Association (NEA) Foundation and in partnership with EarthEcho Inc., will award a \$10,000 Green Prize in Public Education to an outstanding public school that demonstrates success in engaging students, faculty and their local community in school greening efforts.

Greening efforts can take a variety of forms, including a creative and innovative classroom curriculum that integrates the environment, changes in daily operations that lead to greater efficiency and resource conservation or physical improvements to school grounds and facilities.

Through the leadership and involvements of educators, staff, parents, students, community partners and others, green schools provide rich opportunities for collaborative learning and problem solving. They also reduce costs, minimize waste, increase efficiency and contribute to a healthy environment.

“Schools green themselves in many different ways, but they all have things in common – they inspire,” said Diane Wood, president of the National Environmental Education Foundation. “They are a teaching tool, not just for the students, but for the entire community. The Green Prize recognizes outstanding schools along with their dedicated teachers and students who advance environmental education and allows them to serve as a model for the entire country.”

The Foundation will also award two additional schools \$5,000 merit awards to supplement their school greening efforts.

This is the second year for the Green Prize, conceived by the NEA Foundation and now managed by NEEF. In 2010, the NEA Foundation awarded the prize to Mike Town, an environmental science teacher at Redmond High School in Redmond, Washington. Town was recognized for his Cool School Challenge, a program that engaged students and teachers at 150 schools in reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by more than 1.5 million pounds.

To learn more or to apply for the Green Prize in Public Education, visit:

http://neefusa.org/grants/green_prize.htm

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THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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, visit www.neefusa.org.



THE NEA FOUNDATION

The NEA Foundation is an independent, public charity supported by contributions from educators, corporate sponsors, and others. We partner with education unions, districts, and communities to create powerful, sustainable improvements in teaching and learning.



EARTH ECHO INTERNATIONAL

Earth Echo International is a nonprofit 501c3 organization founded in 2000 by siblings Philippe and Alexandra Cousteau in honor of their father Philippe Cousteau Sr., famous son of the legendary explorer Jacques Yves Cousteau. **EarthEcho International's mission is to empower youth to take action that restores and protects our water planet.**