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**CARBON REDUCTION: A PRIORITY FOR AREA SCHOOLS IN 2008**  
***The National Environmental Education Foundation and HSBC Bank USA award funding to local schools to reduce their carbon footprint***

**WASHINGTON** –The National Environmental Education Foundation and HSBC Bank USA will award three grants to area schools to aid in expanding and improving current environmental education efforts. George Mason Elementary School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Rock Terrace School will use these funds to engage in school greening projects that will help reduce their carbon footprint.

Recipients of the grants will each receive \$1,000 and will be required to complete a school greening effort that measurably improves the school's overall carbon footprint and actively involves students in a hands-on educational experience.

"We are excited to work with HSBC Bank USA on this small grants program" said Diane Wood, president of the National Environmental Education Foundation. "We need to ensure that students - at every age - are provided with an education that enables them to take direct steps in their daily lives to explore nature and protect the environment."

The first grant will be awarded on Oct. 23 to George Mason Elementary School. Educators at the school are planning to expand the current recycling program to include all grades of paper, cardboard, glass, plastic bottles and jugs, and metal and tin cans. Currently, the school only recycles white paper.

"This grant will make George Mason the first school in the city of Alexandria to implement single-stream recycling and help foster long-term success due to funding for outreach and education," said Dawn Feltman, principal of George Mason Elementary School. "Moving to single-stream recycling complements our other efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, such as composting food waste."

The second award, announced on Nov. 3, will go to Horace Mann Elementary School located in Washington, D.C. The school plans to introduce a curriculum that focuses on the value of good nutrition for healthy bodies and better learning. And a new teaching kitchen at the school will allow students to prepare and cook fresh, sustainable produce grown in their school garden or purchased from local markets rather than chain grocery stores.

"Horace Mann is committed to providing our students with environmental education that they can use inside and outside of the classroom," said Elizabeth Whisnant, principal of Horace Mann Elementary. "We're excited and honored to be one of the three recipients to receive one of these grants."

On Nov. 10, the third and final award will go to Rock Terrace School, a school for students with special needs located in Rockville, Md.. The school plans to use the grant money to make several additions to their schoolyard habitat efforts such as building more raised garden beds for organic produce; establishing a weather station to enhance math and science; and buying CFL bulbs to use in school offices.

“Our students couldn’t be more thrilled about the activities we have planned to reduce our footprint,” says Dianne Thornton, principal at Rock Terrace School. “And as the principal, I could not be more grateful to receive this support.”

“HSBC Bank is pleased to work with the National Environmental Education Foundation to support each of the three schools,” says Thomas Higgins, Vice-President of Not-for-Profit Banking Services at HSBC Bank USA. “At HSBC, we are committed to protecting our planet—education is the first step.”

For more details about the grant winners, and for more information about the National Environmental Education Foundation, please visit [www.neefusa.org](http://www.neefusa.org).

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**About the National Environmental Education Foundation**

The National Environmental Education Foundation provides objective environmental information to help Americans live better every day. We work with professionals in health, education, public lands and media to connect the environment to everyday choices and actions so the public can live well while protecting and enjoying nature. Through our signature programs like National Public Lands Day, Environmental Education Week, Earth Gauge, and the Pediatric Environmental History Initiative, the National Environmental Education Foundation offers Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit [www.neefusa.org](http://www.neefusa.org).

**About HSBC Bank USA**

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