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National Grid Foundation

David Graves

**Boston Latin School Students Awarded for Going Green**

Students win a $500 grant in national environmental competition

February 11, 2009: New York, NY – Students from Boston Latin School’s Youth Climate Action Network (Youth CAN) will be presented with $500 in environmental funding from Do Something.org and the National Grid Foundation today. The grant is a reward for student leadership in environmental sustainability at school. The annual campaign awards students that take innovative action, change school practices and policies and shrink their school’s carbon footprint. Nearly 400 middle and high schools across the U.S. entered Do Something’s Increase Your Green Competition this year.

The campaign, funded by the National Grid foundation, was coordinated by Do Something.org to empower teens to reduce their environmental impact. All initiatives had to be designed and lead by students. Winners were selected by Do Something.org and a panel of expert judges upon review of their projects.

“We believe teens have what it takes to lead right now,” said Melanie Stevenson, Associate at Do Something. “These students have more inspiration, energy and creativity than many colleges and businesses who have ‘gone green.’ We can all learn something from them. Do Something is honored to be celebrating and supporting their work.”

Other regional winners include MS447 in NY, Berkshire School in MA, and, last year’s grand prize winners, Boston Latin School in MA. Do Something funded grants outside of the National Grid territory. The Do Something Grand Prize winner is Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Nashville, TN. Second Prize winners are Corporate Landing Middle School in VA, Boise High School in ID, and the Branson School in CA.

Boston Latin’s outstanding efforts include:

* Rewiring cafeteria lights to cut energy use in half!
* Installing motion sensor lighting in the school gym.
* Participating in the Boston Children’s Museum energy fair.
* Hanging visual reminders to switch off lights and computers in each classroom.
* Hanging up a 100’ fishing weir at Boston Nature Center to prevent the spillage of toxic waste onto their grounds.
* Creating eco-announcements for the school bulletin and faculty list serv.
* Filming environmental PSAs to air during morning announcements.

“The Youth Climate Action Network will use this grant to help promote our Massachusetts Climate Literacy Campaign, an initiative to make Climate Change Education required in Massachusetts schools, as well as our Youth Summit at MIT on May 9th which will offer workshops and speakers for students and teachers grades 7 through 12 free of charge,” said Greg Hall, a junior in BLS Youth CAN

**Do Something** is a trusted resource for teenagers who want to make a difference. They provide the tools and resources that enable teens to convert their ideas and energy into positive action. Do Something leverages communications technologies to inspire, empower, and celebrates a generation of doers: teens who recognize the need to do something, believe in their ability to get it done, and then take action. Plug in at [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

**About National Grid Foundation** – The National Grid Foundation was created to enhance the quality of life in areas where National Grid provides services. The Foundation’s ongoing challenge is to create opportunities for solutions to educational and environmental issues.  Its objective is based on the principle that giving people the tolls to build hope is an essential ingredient in the development of individuals, families and communities.  Since its inception in December of 1999, the Foundation has provided nearly $15 million in grants to hundreds of organizations.