

## **THE BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY STUDENTS QUALIFY TO COMPETE FOR \$50,000 GRAND PRIZE IN THE LEXUS ECO CHALLENGE**

A team of five students at The Ben Franklin Academy are among the 48 schools nationwide that have qualified to participate in the Final Challenge of the Lexus Eco Challenge, a national contest that encourages middle and high school students to develop and implement environmental programs that positively impact their communities. The team was awarded \$10,000 for their entry in the Water Challenge earlier this academic year, and now, as a participant in the Final Challenge, they've been asked to take their environmental message to as wide an audience as possible.

This year's second annual Lexus Eco Challenge ([www.scholastic.com/lexus](http://www.scholastic.com/lexus)), created by Lexus and Scholastic, had 775 registered teams representing 5,100 middle and high school students nationwide. The 48 winning Action Plans were selected from 425 entries submitted during the three earlier phases of the competition. From the Final Challenge entries, Lexus and Scholastic will choose two \$50,000 grand-prize-winning teams and 14 \$30,000 first place teams. In all, \$1 million in grants and scholarship will be awarded.

The students at The Ben Franklin Academy are hard at work on their project. They have been developing a website to spread the message of water conservation ([www.savingwateringeoriga.com](http://www.savingwateringeoriga.com)) and teaching their local community about water and energy conservation. Teacher and project advisor James Watson said "The students have all come together to contribute their individual talents in an effort to help our environment, they really deserve this!"

The community is invited to support the team's Final Challenge Action Plan by visiting their website and to help spreading the message of conservation.

For more information about this team's activities, contact:

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