

NEWS RELEASE

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Keep Suffolk Beautiful receives State Recognition

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA (April 19, 2011) Governor Bob McDonnell recently announced the winners of the 2011 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards. Keep Suffolk Beautiful was among the Bronze Medal award recipients.

The awards recognize the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in three categories: environmental projects, environmental programs and land conservation. They are given to businesses and industrial facilities, not-for-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals.

Keep Suffolk Beautiful received an award for its Recycling Rangers program. Hattie Lester, Suffolk Litter Control Coordinator, birth the program from a \$10,000 Waste Management grant the affiliate received from Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

"I am extremely excited for this recognition, particularly for what the students at Kilby Shores and Northern Shores Elementary Schools accomplished with the Recycling Rangers program," said Lester. "They learned the value and the urgency of recycling. It's imperative for a greener, cleaner future."

In 2009, Keep Suffolk Beautiful implemented the Recycling Rangers program, focusing on students in grades kindergarten through fifth. Over the course of the 2009-2010 school year, more than 2,600 pounds of paper for recycling was collected. Groups of student "rangers" were given authority and responsibility for the success of the program, making monthly rounds at the schools, emptying bins and checking for contamination.

Speaking about the awards, Governor McDonnell remarked, "We are very proud of the Virginians in these private, non-profit and government entities who have

demonstrated the innovation and dedication to improve our environment and make the lives of their fellow Virginians better.”

Award winners were chosen based on criteria including environmental benefit, stakeholder involvement, public outreach, transferability and innovativeness.

This year’s awards were sponsored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Dominion and Smithfield Foods Inc.

Cutline for photo attached:

Suffolk Environmental Specialist Erin Bradshaw accepted Keep Suffolk Beautiful’s 2011 Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award on behalf of the City. Pictured with Bradshaw are (left to right) Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech, Department of Environmental Quality Director David Paylor, and Department of Conservation and Recreation David Johnson.

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