



**HAWTHORNE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**
445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Press Release: For Immediate Release

On Monday June 9, 2025, the annual presentation performed by students to the Hawthorne Environmental Commission, which concerned student participation in environmental education activities, was held in the Hawthorne High School (HHS) auditorium at 7:30 PM. The theme of the June Environmental Program was “Think Globally, Act Locally” by taking the initiative and setting the example on how to make a difference. This program provided teachers with an opportunity to showcase any activities they have done with their students relating to preserving the environment. In addition, local Hawthorne businesses and residents received special recognition for their environmental leadership and commitment to protecting and preserving our community.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented by the Environmental Commission celebrating the 33rd Cel-Earth-Bratton event held on April 26, 2025. This year’s theme was “**Water = Life**”, about the importance of water for physical life, health, and our planet – water conservation and protection. Students representing Jefferson School, Roosevelt School, and Hawthorne High School discussed their environmental projects.

Jefferson School

Grades 3rd to 5th Category – 33rd Cel-Earth-Bratton Winners

- Maggie Giacchetti presented her 3rd Prize Winner project - “Rainwater = Human Life.”

Roosevelt School

K to 2nd Category – 33rd Cel-Earth-Bratton Winners

- Grace Pianese presented her 1ST Place tie “Pollution Makes Sea Life Very Sad; Water = Life.”
- Zoey Pianese presented her 1ST Place tie “Water Makes Beautiful Flowers.”
- Lily Pianese presented her 1ST Place tie “Water is Life for Pets.”
- Grayson Edward Petrow presented his 2ND Place tie “The Amazing Water Cycle.”

Roosevelt School

Grades 3rd to 5th Category – 33rd Cel-Earth-Bratton Winners

- Isabela Santangelo and Zoe Saldana presented their 1ST Place tie “Rain Garden”
- Maxon Riley and Max Venegas presented their 1ST Place tie “Veggie-Fruit Shower Chute”

Hawthorne High School

Hawthorne High School STEM students Sasha Ortiz-Kalina, Hana Hdaib, Joel Eshuis, Thomas Mai, Tommy Czyzewski, and Tyler Schneider presented their project, “Watering Can.” The HHS team created a product that would enable individuals in times of emergency to distill dirty water into purified drinking water. The Hawthorne High School team was coached by Michele Phibbs and Theresa DiGeronimo, math teacher and library media specialist respectively. Mentors and subject-matter experts included New Era Engineer Bob Pasquale, STEAM Tank mentors Joe David and Mike Buttitta, as well as mechanical engineering student and HHS alumnus TJ Marks. The students earned as a finalist in the state-wide NJ School Board Association’s STEAM Tank Challenge, earning their school \$500.

Special Recognition

Citizens have demonstrated their environmental leadership and commitment by protecting and preserving our community. The following individuals were recognized for their contributions to the achievements of the Hawthorne Environmental Commission and the Hawthorne Green Team.

Janet Turco and Mike Turco, Hawthorne Green Team members, were recognized for their work on re-educating the public on the importance of Hawthorne’s anti idling program. We developed a public service article in partnership with the Hawthorne School System and Hawthorne Police Department. Additionally, Janet Turco and Mike Turco promoted the anti-idling program at the 33rd Cel-Earth-Bration.

Local Businesses – “Great Strides in Going Green” – Since June 2010, the Environmental Commission has recognized local businesses for their environmental awareness and efforts within the community. We developed the outlined Green Business Criteria: promote and demonstrate Environmental Leadership, waste Management, energy use, water conservation, pollution reduction, green building and landscaping, and community participation. Hawthorne’s Green Business Program is located on the Borough’s website at <https://hawthornenj.org/320/Hawthornes-Green-Business-Recognition-Pr>.

The 2025 Green Businesses of Hawthorne were presented to:

- **Fisk Alloy, Inc.** – Bill Yankovich, President, Brian Gerard, VP of Research & Development, and Hamid Sarmadi, EHS Manager; Fish Alloy is a world-class, high performance copper alloy wire manufacturer. Fish Alloy has been conducting business in Hawthorne for over 50 years. Fish Alloy institutes a scrap metal recycling program that contributes to Hawthorne’s overall recycling tonnage. In addition, Fish Alloy is one of the first companies to remove cadmium from wiring to copper. Please see the article <https://fiskalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/wire-cable-cadmium-2002.pdf> for more information. Lastly, Fisk Alloy is an annual sponsor of Hawthorne’s Boro Bandshell.
- **Carlos’ Hand Rolled Bagel Shop** – Juliana Ospina and Carlos Ospina, Owners; Carlos’ Hand Rolled Bagel shop utilizes biodegradable plant fiber plates, salad bowls, wooden coffee stirrers, paper bags, coffee trays & coffee sleeves. Carlos’ Hand Rolled Bagel Shop instituted a cooking oil recycling program that contributes to Hawthorne’s overall recycling tonnage. In addition, Carlos’ Hand Rolled Bagel Shop is a participant in the Mayor’s Wellness Program.

The Hawthorne Environmental Commission reminds you that creating environmental awareness is crucial to the future of our planet. Please do your part to support our great community today!