



NEWS RELEASE

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WEST LAFAYETTE JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S "CLEAN PLATE, CLEAN ENERGY" FROM WEST LAFAYETTE SCHOOL CORPORATION NAMED SECOND PLACE WINNER IN *SIEMENS WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD CHALLENGE*

-- Over 1,200 Students Compete in First-Ever High School Division of National Challenge Aiming to Empower Students to Create Solutions to World's Greatest Energy Challenges --

ISELIN, NJ, May 18, 2011—The [Siemens Foundation](#), [Discovery Education](#), the [National Science Teachers Association](#) (NSTA) and the [College Board](#) today announced the high school winners of the 2011 *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge*. Team "Clean Plate, Clean Energy" and their mentor Rakesh Agrawal from West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School won second place in the inaugural year of the high school division for their project on reducing fossil fuel dependency.

More than 1,200 high school students from across the nation participated in the Challenge, which aims to empower young people to create solutions to today's environmental problems. A panel of environmental advocates and science educators selected "Clean Plate, Clean Energy" based on the project's ability to creatively identify and present an energy-related issue with local, national and global implications and provide a replicable, viable solution. Arthi Puri and Agustina de la Fuente along with mentor Rakesh Agrawal focused on evaluating the feasibility of diverting food waste toward energy generation in order to reduce fossil fuel dependency. A pilot arrangement was successfully established between the high school and the local waste-water treatment authority.

"Our first-ever high school division challenged teams to utilize their ingenuity and creativity to specifically address an energy-related issue," said Jeniffer Harper-Taylor, President of the Siemens Foundation. "As energy and fuel-related issues continue to dominate headlines, it is more important than ever that future leaders like team 'Clean Plate, Clean Energy' are engaged and active on these issues. The Siemens Foundation and its partners are grateful and proud that 'Clean Plate, Clean Energy' is inspiring others to heed this call."

As the second place winner, team "Clean Plate, Clean Energy" will receive a comprehensive prize package, which includes an equal share of a \$25,000 scholarship and a *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* Finalist Pack. In addition to the above, Rakesh Agrawal will receive a \$1,000 grant for their school, free registration and hotel accommodations at an upcoming NSTA national or area conference, a one-year membership to NSTA and a *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* Green Prize Pack.

Over 35,000 students have participated in the Challenge since it began in 2008. For more information on the *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* and for details on additional Challenge finalists and winners, go to www.wecanchange.com.

About Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

The *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* (www.wecanchange.com) is a premier national sustainability challenge that empowers students in grades K-12 to develop and share environmental solutions that can help change the world. The *Challenge* is a collaborative effort of the Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, the College Board and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to educate, empower and engage elementary, middle and high school students and teachers to become “Agents of Change” in improving their schools, communities and world. To date, more than 17,500 students have participated, creatively engaging their communities to find solutions to a local environmental issue or global energy challenge. All participants research their issue using scientific investigation and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education. For more information, visit www.wecanchange.com.

About the Siemens Foundation

The Siemens Foundation provides more than \$7 million annually in support of educational initiatives in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the United States. Its signature programs include the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement, and The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, which encourages K-12 students to develop innovative green solutions for environmental issues. In February 2010 the Siemens Foundation launched its newest initiative, The Siemens STEM Academy, a national STEM education program for teachers designed to support educators in their efforts to foster student achievement in these fields. By supporting outstanding students today, and recognizing the teachers and schools that inspire their excellence, the Foundation helps nurture tomorrow's scientists and engineers. The Foundation's mission is based on the culture of innovation, research and educational support that is the hallmark of Siemens' U.S. companies and its parent company, Siemens AG. For further information, visit www.siemens-foundation.org.

About Discovery Education

Discovery Communications (DISCA, DISCB, DISCK) revolutionized television with Discovery Channel and is now transforming classrooms through Discovery Education. Powered by the number one nonfiction media company in the world, Discovery Education combines scientifically proven, standards-based digital media and a dynamic user community in order to empower teachers to improve student achievement. Already, more than half of all U.S. schools access Discovery Education digital services. Explore the future of education at www.discoveryeducation.com.

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