

# Environmental Youth Symposium 2013

*“Creating Action through Environmental Stewardship and  
Encouraging Climate Resiliency”*

## 2013 Request for Proposals for Student Poster Session

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 invites students to submit proposals to be presented during the poster session at the Regional Greening Your Campus and Curriculum Symposium. The Conference will be held on September 13, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. This is a great opportunity for students to showcase their research in front of their peers from campus within the Southeast and other environmental sustainability professionals.

### POSTER SESSION DATE AND TIMES:

**Friday, September 13, 2012**

**8:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

**SYMPOSIUM PURPOSE:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, will host its Second Environmental Youth Symposium for Colleges and Universities in the Southeast in September 2013. This year's theme is “Youth Leaders Invoking Change through Environmental Stewardship to Mitigate Climate Resilience through Evaluation and Awareness.” The purpose of this event is to: 1) provide opportunities for students, faculties, administrators and other environmental and sustainability stakeholders, to develop partnerships; network and collaborate on sustainable environmental practices; and 2) facilitate further dialogue among campus representatives with signed MOUs and those campuses that are interested in becoming a part of the EPA Region 4 Collegiate Sustainability Initiative.

The 2013 Youth Environmental Symposium is designed to give college students, administrators, and faculty a firsthand look at environmental stewardship; how greenhouse gases are formed; its effect on the environment; and steps that can be taken to mitigate and adapt to climate resilience. Most importantly, the Symposium will highlight what some of the impacts of climate resilience in the Southeast and what the EPA is doing to assist with the mitigation of those impacts.

**CATEGORIES FOR POSTER SESSIONS:** Presentations should focus on one of the following topic areas and ensure that the implication for campus sustainability is integral to the research.

**1. Sustainability and Building a Green Campus** – Presentations should demonstrate how sustainability/green principles and practices are being incorporated into the campus community and campus operations.

**2. Greening the Curriculum** – Presentations should illustrate how collaboration between diverse campus stakeholder groups should be used to ensure the integration of sustainability across the curriculum and co-curricular activities.

**3. Capacity Building/Organizational Development** – Presentations should demonstrate the importance of campus or community-based organizations identifying capable and skilled leaders, building leadership skills of their leaders, ensuring that they have an effective succession plan in place, and conducts periodic program evaluations and strategic planning.

**4. Representing Your Constituents & Advocating for Colleges and Universities** – Presentations show how to organize to be strong sustainability/green campus advocates on behalf of their campus constituents.

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**5. Using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Techniques to Address Sustainability/Green Campus Concerns** – Presentations can include research on how alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques can be used as an effective tool to facilitate productive discussions between campus constituents with opposing viewpoints; ultimately leading to consensus and collaboration.

**6. Addressing Health, Environmental, and Socioeconomic Disparities** - Presentations should show research regarding how the principles and practices of sustainability can prevent and alleviate the environment, socioeconomic, and health disparities in minority and low-income populations.

**EVALUATION FOR POSTER SESSION:** Judges will be selected from the federal and industrial attendees of the Symposium. The review process has been standardized and reviewer's decisions are based on overall quality of the poster: Content, Research Importance, Ingenuity and Innovativeness. Scores will be given to each poster during the evaluation, from 1:30pm – 3:30pm, and the 1st (\$700.00), 2nd (\$500.00), and 3rd (\$300.00) place winners of the poster contest will be determined based on the highest total score.

**POSTER PRESENTATION DEFINED:** A poster is a visual presentation of your research or clinical project. Use schematic diagrams, graphics, tables and other strategies to direct the visual attention of the viewer, rather than explaining it using text as you would in a journal article. A poster addresses one central question. State the question or hypothesis clearly in the poster and use our presentation to provide a clear and explicit message.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

#### Proposal Submission Timeline

Due Date	Activity
August 20, 2013	Deadline to submit proposals
August 21, 2013	Confirm receipt of proposals
August 23, 2013	Receive acceptance/rejection notification
September 13, 2013	Display Posters on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor by 8:30 a.m.
September 13, 2013	Atlanta, GA Symposium

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:** All Requests for Proposals should be submitted by the deadline. Please submit a 150-200 word abstract to Caroline Robinson at [robinson.caroline@epa.gov](mailto:robinson.caroline@epa.gov) and Sharron Porter at [porter.sharron@epa.gov](mailto:porter.sharron@epa.gov) . Requests for Proposals will only be accepted via email unless prior arrangements have been made with the Conference Coordinator.

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**POSTER SPECIFICATIONS:** Posters should be designed to convey information in an easy-to-view format, conducive to walk-through traffic, and should include the following:

- The green campus issue being addressed.
- The rationale approach to resolving the issue.
- Interdisciplinary work done in both conducting the research and applying the results.
- The impact that your research has made or is expected to make on the issue.

Information for the poster should include the following:

**A. General Information.** Across the top, provide your name, degree (e.g., B.S., M.S. or Ph.D.), school, and city/state of the school.

**B. Overview or Abstract.** Include a brief abstract (for general public reading) describing the focus of the research, why these research questions are of interest, and the research approach (e.g., main research projects or disciplines). Estimate 150-200 words.

**C. Research Highlights.** Describe the research project. Write a project description appropriate for a lay audience. Emphasize the findings and include colorful graphics. Also, include a concise statement of the impact or importance of the research.

**POSTER SIZE:** The recommended dimensions for your poster are 40" x 30". It will be helpful to provide a handout of your poster that includes your full contact information so they have access to your important ideas after the Conference. You are responsible for creating your poster; we will not provide you with the poster materials.

**POSTER STYLE:** Font size for the top line that includes your name and school. For the body of the poster, use upper/lower case Arial for the header, subheads, and body text.

- Header font size – 36 point
- Subhead font size – 24 point
- Body text – 18 point

**FYI:** Any charts or graphs prepared in PowerPoint should print in a larger size without being distorted. Bitmap files or low-resolution files will be fuzzy when printed at a larger scale. It is best to use high-resolution files for pictures, charts, graphs, etc.

TITLE			
INTRODUCTION			
			CONCLUSION

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### LETTERING:

- Word-process all text (including captions). Print on plain white paper with a laser printer or inkjet printer.
- Text should be readable from five feet away. Use a minimum font size of 18 points.
- Lettering for the title should be large (at least 70-point font). Use all capital letters for the title.

### VISUALS:

- Present numerical data in the form of graphs, rather than tables (graphs make trends in the data much more evident). If data must be presented in table-form, KEEP IT SIMPLE.
- Visuals should be simple and bold. Leave out or remove any unnecessary details.
- Make sure that any visual can “stand alone” (i.e., graph axes are properly labeled, maps have north arrows and distance scales, symbols are explained, etc.).
- Use color to enhance comprehension, not to decorate the poster. Neatly coloring black-line illustrations with color pencils is entirely acceptable.
- Make sure that the text and the visuals are integrated. Figures should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Each visual should have a brief title (for example: Figure 1- Location of study area).

### TEXT:

- Keep the text brief. Blocks of text should not exceed three paragraphs. Use text to (a) introduce the study (what hypothesis was tested or what problem was investigated? why was the study worth doing?), (b) explain visuals and direct viewers attention to significant data trends and relationships portrayed in the visuals, and (c) state and explain the interpretations that follow from the data. In many cases, conclusions can be summarized in a bullet-point list.
- Depending upon the stage or nature of your project, the text could also include sections on future research plans or questions for discussion with viewers.
- Cite and reference any sources of information other than your own, just as you would do with a research paper. Ask your professor about the particular citation system that you should use (every discipline uses slightly different styles). The “References Cited” is placed at the end of the poster.

### MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS:

- **SIMPLICITY IS THE KEY.** Keep to the point, and don't try to cover too many things. Present only enough data to support your conclusions. On the other hand, make sure that you present sufficient data to support your conclusions.

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### **MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS** *(continued):*

- When you begin to make your poster, first create a list of the visuals that you would use if you were describing your project with only the visuals. Write the text after you have created the list of visuals.
- Mat the components of the poster on separate pieces of colored display boards. This sets-off the text and illustrations from the white mounting board. Also, you can easily attach each component to the mounting board with push-pins or thumb-tacks.
- Before the poster session, rehearse a brief summary of your project. Many viewers will be in a hurry and will want a quick “guided tour” of your poster. Don’t be afraid to point out uncertainties in your work; this is where you may get useful feedback.

### **CONFERENCE COORDINATOR**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Conference Coordinator.

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