A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK
sustainablejc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alex Viqueira, alexandra.viqueira@sustainablejc.org, (973) 738-3864

Sustainable Jersey City, Solar Landscape Announce Winners of 2023 Green Ambassador Program Sustainability Challenge

Students from Highlands, NJ, Earn Top Honors for Drone to Collect Water Samples

Jersey City, NJ – October 25, 2023 – Three students from Marine Academy of Science & Technology (M.A.S.T.) in Highlands, NJ, earned first place in the Green Ambassador Program Sustainability Challenge sponsored by nonprofit Sustainable Jersey City and national solar developer Solar Landscape. For the winning project, M.A.S.T. students Aiden Mumm, Tyler Smolensky and Dylan Agnese designed a remote-controlled drone designed to take water samples, reducing the need for using boats to conduct the environmental monitoring.

This year, the program attracted students from across the country, with 360 students nationwide enrolled to participate in the Green Ambassador Program.

Second place in the 2023 Sustainability Challenge was awarded to a student at Lyons Township High School in La Grange, IL for a project that raised awareness of toxic heavy metals in the soil.

“We are so encouraged by the innovation and energy that this year’s Sustainability Challenge submissions demonstrated,” said Debra A. Italiano, founder and chair of Sustainable Jersey City. “Fighting climate change and creating a more sustainable, resilient future will be a hallmark of the generation emerging from today’s schools. These students have identified real-world problems and tackled them with ingenuity and hope.”

The 2023 Sustainability Challenge winning team designed a remote-controlled environmental monitoring drone.

The winning projects were selected by a panel of judges from Sustainable Jersey City and Solar Landscape. The Sustainability Challenge is one part of Solar Landscape’s Green Ambassador Program, which promotes sustainability education and the development of high school students across the U.S. who are seeking to affect change within their communities. It offers students a chance to learn about energy, policy, careers, business strategies and environmental issues through a series of pre-recorded webinars.

“Our future depends on looking at pressing problems in new ways,” said Solar Landscape CEO and co-founder Shaun Keegan. “These projects serve as an educational opportunity today and a proving ground for tomorrow’s leaders in clean energy and fighting climate change.

A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK
sustainablejc.org

Congratulations to this year's scholarship winners and many thanks to Sustainable Jersey City for their partnership."

The M.A.S.T. team was advised by the Marine Academy's Principal Earl Moore and teachers Wendy Green and Samantha Moorzitz.

"Today's winning teams are great examples of the leadership and creativity that M.A.S.T. strives to teach," said Principal Moore. "We're proud of our students for their unique solutions to challenges that face our global community and appreciate the energy and guidance of our teachers."

About Sustainable Jersey City

Sustainable Jersey City is a catalyst organization whose mission is to educate, empower and activate community stakeholders, to make Jersey City, NJ and the region, a more sustainable and resilient place to live and work. We leverage community assets to create programs that increase community knowledge and engagement, support existing sustainability initiatives, and enable systemic change from the grassroots level. Our vision is for Jersey City to become the greenest, most sustainable and resilient city in New Jersey, with community stakeholders that are educated about and committed to environmental, economic and social justice. For more, visit www.sustainablejc.org/.

About Solar Landscape

Solar Landscape is the leading commercial and industrial rooftop solar developer in the U.S., with experience in both community solar and behind-the-meter solar projects. The company employs over 160 people and has more than 250 megawatts of solar energy projects built, and over 150 megawatts operating and under construction. For more about Solar Landscape, visit www.solarlandscape.com.

# # #