

Ecotek Student Scientists Attend Groundwater Conference

Water is a precious commodity that is often taken for granted by people living in wealthy nations. According to the UN, over half of the world's population does not have access to clean drinking water. With the rise in climate change and the growing human population, problems regarding access to clean water will only get worse. Student scientists in Ecotek do not only understand this problem, but they are working on ways to address the issue.

Mosheh Williams, along with Briana Young and Breanna Alvin, attended the 16th Annual Groundwater Conference that was held in Lansing, Michigan on February 24. The conference was sponsored by the American Water Works Association. The trio met with groundwater experts and attended breakout sessions to learn about federal and state regulations regarding water rights and conservation. They also presented information on their hydrology and food security research.

The hydrology research, conducted by Mosheh and Briana focused on identifying the different chemical properties of groundwater, surface water and tap water. The team found that groundwater tends to have a lower PH level (acidic), while water taken from ponds and streams have high levels of pesticides and other chemicals.



From the food security side, the lead researcher on this topic, Breanna Alvin, identified key differences in the germination time of corn seeds watered using “contaminated” water and corn seeds that were watered using distilled or “clean” water. She is currently developing a hydroponic system to grow food crops.

Attending the Groundwater Conference was a great learning experience for the students. It gave them a chance to interact with professionals in the groundwater industry and to learn about how water conservation is connected to many aspects of human survival. The event also gave them the opportunity to prepare for their visit to the United Nations where they will be debating issues of water conservation and food security on behalf of Australia.



About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a program within the Motor City Model UN Club, a 501c3 organization. It provides students ages 10 to 17 with the opportunity to work on science projects to help them better understand the role that science plays in policy making within international organizations like the United Nations. The students work on a diverse set of projects ranging from combating AIDS to protecting the environment. Once they have reviewed the UN treaties and have completed their lab research, the students meet with world leaders at the UN to share what they have learned.

To learn more about the program and the students highlighted in this press release, please contact Keith Young at 313-399-7893 or email him at keiyoung@ecotek-us.com