2018 – 2019 Summary

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Compiled by

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The North Carolina Division of Air Quality invites seventh grade students to learn about air and air pollution through the 2018 – 2019 AQ-IQ Contest. Students create a project that highlights an air quality issue and provides a solution to that issue.

The AQ-IQ Contest gives students a chance to create a project that highlights an air quality issue and provides a solution to that issue. The projects can be a poster, artistic project, video or game, and the students can work in groups as large as four. The project puts the student in the role of presenting the information, which is one of the most effective ways to learn. The contest is correlated with the NC Department of Public Instruction Essential Standards in Science, Technology, and Social Studies. This year the AQ-IQ Contest will be adding a new twist. Students will be given the additional opportunity to compete in four categories related to air quality: Climate Change, Mobile Sources, Ground-level Ozone & Particulate Matter, and Open Burning and Other Outdoor Fires.

Figure 1The attendees of the 2019 N.C. AQ-IQ Recognition Event
The projects are submitted to the regional office in March each year. They are then evaluated regionally, and the best are sent to the statewide AQ-IQ Judging Event. The students who made the best projects in the state were invited to the 2019 North Carolina AQ-IQ Recognition Event on July 13, 2019. North Carolina Division of Air Quality (DAQ) Director Mike Abraczinskas presided.

Good afternoon, students, parents and teachers. I want to start by thanking the North Carolina Transportation Museum for partnering with us on this ceremony today and hosting us again in this terrific location.

Thanks to all of you for coming to Spencer today to recognize the statewide winners of the 2019 North Carolina Division of Air Quality AQ-IQ Contest. Seventh Grade Students from across the state worked in groups of up to four. Their goal was to make a poster, game, video or artistic project that highlighted an air quality problem and proposed a solution to that problem. I hope you had a chance to see some of the amazing projects these students submitted.

– Mike Abraczinskas, Director, North Carolina Division of Air Quality

The AQ-IQ Contest is based on a regional contest that started in 2004. The Division of Air Quality began managing the contest in 2008, and expanded it to a statewide contest in 2015.

The North Carolina Museum of Transportation is a great location for this award ceremony. This room is full of examples of our past – as well as a vision of where we can go and how we can get there.

As we in the Division of Air Quality know, Cars and Trucks are the biggest source of air pollution in North Carolina. We also know that trains are one of the most efficient ways to move cargo, and one of the most pleasant ways to travel. Trains were also the first hybrid electric vehicles.

With their projects -- these students have shown that they’re looking to the future, too with their forward-thinking solutions to our air quality issues.
Artistic Projects
An artistic project can be a painting, poem, journal, or model. The projects need to be researched and focused. Judges look at the bibliography and sources of information, and most importantly, how the project shows a solution to the problem.
Fifth Place
Smog Book
Emma Grace Palmer
Hendersonville Middle School

Fourth Place
Air Quality Poems
Channing Mahoney and Zoe Vantubbergh
CW Stanford Middle School

Third Place
A Journal From the Future
Andy Sun
Hendersonville Middle School

Second Place
Stop Inhaling Everything
Carly Milanese
Hendersonville Middle School
First Place
The Choice Not Taken
Anika Rajesh, Bhagyashri Thawali, Henry Rowen, and Mahitha Ballijepalli
Davis Drive Middle School
**Game Category**
All the games are fun to play and are being used by the DAQ education program with students. Most games are built upon the framework of existing games, but are honed to help the players know more about air quality, and reward the players who know about solutions to our air quality problems.
Fifth Place Game
Twister Pollution
Jackson Pace and Jackson Wines
Hendersonville Middle School

Fourth Place Game
Pollution Disaster
Abigail Armstrong
Cramerton Middle School

Third Place Game
Clue
Lindsay Hall and Mary Kathryn Gowan
Hendersonville Middle School

Second Place Game
Fire Burns
Hailey Studdard, Jamila Washington, Saesha Agarwal, and Sarah Pazokian
Davis Drive Middle School
First Place Game
Save The City
Esperanza Ramires, Kacee Glynn, and Lola Houston
Hendersonville Middle School
**Poster Category**
More than 250 students submitted poster projects this year. They ranged from simple hand-written projects on poster board to 3-D displays with sequins and foam. Because of the excellence of the student work in this category—we expanded the awards to include included two honorable mention posters.
Honorable Mention Poster
Refrigerants Razing the Ozone Layer
**Anuj Pannala, Derek Wang, and Siddharth Malireddi**
Davis Drive Middle School

Honorable Mention Poster
S.A.V.I.O.R
Cecilia (or Cece) Cale and Shannon Williams
Davis Drive Middle School

Fifth Place Poster
Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer
Gloria Xiang, **Katie Zhao**, and Sneha Papineni
Davis Drive Middle School

Fourth Place Poster
Rethink Your Ride
**Courtney Blair**
**Third Place Poster**  
Volatile Organic Compounds  
Audrey Mann, Cate Czyzewski, **Ellie Poitras**, and **Leyla Noronha**  
Woods Charter School 

**Second Place**  
Ground Level Ozone and Particulate Matter  
Lydia Maye and Yasmin Garcia  
Hendersonville Middle School 

**First Place Poster**  
Ground Level Ozone  
Brier Prince  
Hendersonville Middle School
Videos range from documentaries to amusing remakes on modern songs. The key to a winning video is good research, real solutions and good entertainment and education value.

Fifth Place Video
Air Quality – Forest Fires
Bri McGinnis, Eliana Phadke, Ellie Shine, and Erin Bradshaw
Cramerton Middle School (their teacher Britnee Reid receiving the award for the students)

Fourth Place Video
Air Pollution Detective
Wyatt Schnitzler
Hendersonville Middle School

Third Place Video
A Rap About Open Burning!
Ella Morgan and Gracie Nesbitt
IC Imagine Charter School
Second Place Video
Transportation Stop Motion Video
Katherine White
Cramerton Middle School

First Place Video
The Effects of Wildfires On Pollution
Abigail Duncan, Caroline Pope, and Leila Doyle
Hendersonville Middle School
This is the second year of the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center’s “Keep Our Air Clean” Student Art Contest. Students submit artwork focused on actions that individuals and families can take to reduce the amount of air pollution from vehicles. Winners will have their artwork featured on billboards across the state to help spread the word about ways that we all can help keep the air clean. Allison Carr from the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center recognized the student accomplishments:

**Elementary School Winner:**
Elizabeth Leonard  
Fourth Grade  
Grace Classical School, Jacksonville NC

**Middle School Winner:**
Adriana Ryder  
Eighth Grade  
Arbor Academy, Waxhaw, NC

**High School Winner:**
Catalina Scott  
Freshman  
Northwest School of the Arts, Charlotte, NC.

**College Winner:**
Megan McLaughlin  
Freshman  
Wake Tech Community College, Raleigh, NC
Governor Roy Cooper has made climate change and a clean energy future a priority for North Carolina. And as our agency focuses on that work, the AQ-IQ Contest added four category awards. These awards celebrate the projects that highlighted the problems and solutions in four areas: Climate Change, Mobile Sources, ‘Ground-level Ozone & Particulate Matter’, and ‘Open Burning and Other Outdoor Fires’.

The top Climate Change project is the Artistic Project: Save Forests from Climate Change Aditi Kushwaha and Amrita Acharya Davis Drive Middle School
The top **Mobile Sources Project** is the Transportation Stop Motion Video Project: **Katherine White**
Cramerton Middle School

The top **Ground Level Ozone and Particle Pollution** project is the Ground Level Ozone and Particulate Matter Poster
Lydia Maye and Yasmin Garcia
Hendersonville Middle School
The top **Open Burning and other Outdoor Fires** project is also the winner of the Margie Mears Award which goes to the best AQ-IQ project in North Carolina. This award is named for the former Division of Air Quality employee who championed clean air education after she left DAQ and created the AQ-IQ Contest.

Both the **Open Burning and the Margie Mears Award** go to the video: The Effects of Wildfires On Pollution
Abigail Duncan, **Caroline Pope**, and Leila Doyle
Hendersonville Middle School

In addition to the certificate Abigail, Caroline, and Leila are receiving weather stations to continue studying the air and air pollution.
Tyler Trahan shared the North Carolina Transportation Museum with the students and their families in a guided tour.
The North Carolina Division of Air Quality would like to thank the following AQ-IQ Partners for supporting the 2018 – 2019 AQ-IQ Contest for Seventh Grade Students.

Mecklenburg County Air Quality
https://www.mecknc.gov/LUESA/AirQuality/Pages/default.aspx

The North Carolina Transportation Museum
The museum that moves you!
www.nctrans.org

The North Carolina Arboretum
https://www.ncarboretum.org

The North Carolina Division of Air Quality
http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality

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