

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DIVISION

Malling Address: 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 329H • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 954-519-1270 • FAX 954-519-1496

September 5, 2014

Mr. Derek Messier
Chief Facilities & Construction Officer
Broward County Public Schools
KC Wright School Board Building
600 SE Third Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

RE: Renewal of Partnership Agreement in Support of NatureScape Broward Programming in Broward Schools

Dear Mr. Messier,

Over the past year, we have continued to make great progress in implementing NatureScape and other environmental stewardship programs in Broward County Public Schools under the terms of our current partnership agreement (copy attached). To date, we have installed 45 learning gardens at middle schools, delivered approximately 1,200 classroom educational programs, trained approximately 500 District teachers and over 280 custodial/maintenance staff in School Board endorsed training sessions, and provided valuable environmental information to an additional 2000+ teachers, administrators, custodial staff and other School Board employees through personal contact. This year saw the implementation of the second annual P₃ Eco-Challenge and Awards Ceremony, an event that strengthens the ties between our agencies and encourages students, teachers, and support staff to actively engage in sustainability measures.

During this past school year, we saw continued growth in the number of students that directly received educational lessons intended to raise their consciousness on the importance of water conservation, native landscaping, and environmental stewardship, and which are grounded in STEM-based skills. To date, over 39,500 students have participated in classroom and outdoor environmental activities directly related to our partnership agreement. The NatureScape Education and Broward Water Matters Day events which we have jointly collaborated on have been a great success, enjoyed by students, teachers, and members of the community. This year's Water Matters Day and was enhanced by the participation of School Board member Patricia Good, who underscored the importance of our partnership prior to presenting awards to the student winners of the Water Matters Day literary contest. These ongoing achievements and program opportunities are promoted through the semi-annual SchoolScapes newsletter outlining our partnership activities over the past year (attached with annual report).

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As you know, the evaluation of irrigation systems on school properties is another important component of the partnership. This past school year, the NatureScape Irrigation Service conducted 67 irrigation system evaluations at 39 school facilities, resulting in over 55 million gallons of annual water savings. Since initiating the NatureScape Irrigation Service within the schools, over 182 school campuses have been evaluated with over 244 million gallons of annual water savings. In addition, water audits addressing indoor water conservation were conducted at four schools this past year and have identified an additional 6,000,000 gallons of water savings that could potentially be saved annually. This translates into real water, energy, and cost savings to the School Board of Broward County. These savings are reflected on the attached Return on Investment documentation.

We hope you concur that through our partnership agreement, we have realized great success in implementing the NatureScape Broward initiative in our public schools. As such, the County would very much like to continue providing these services for an additional contract year, and kindly requests the second one-year renewal of the current 5-year agreement, to become effective at the end of the current term on December 11, 2014.

We look forward to continuing our partnership in this very important initiative. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Rudolph at (954) 519-0328.

Sincerely.

/Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director

Broward County Environmental Planning & Community Resilience Division

cc: Shelley Meloni, Executive Director Facilities Design & Construction Gary Hines, Manager Grounds

Attachments