



# MWRA 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Contest

## Contest Topic: Deer Island

Deer Island is the site of the MWRA's state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant that treats an average of 350 million gallons of wastewater each day from 43 communities in greater Boston. Deer Island currently self-generates 23% of its electricity needs and more than half of the Island's energy demand is provided by on-site, renewable generation. A lot goes on at the 210 acre "island" both inside the facility and out. You may have even walked or biked around the 2.5 mile public access that surrounds the treatment plant. You may have seen the methane producing egg-shaped digesters, the solar panels or wind turbines.

Using your imagination and artistic skills, create a poster showing what happens at Deer Island.

## POSTER

## Contest Topic: Reduction In Average Water Use Throughout The MWRA Service Area

MWRA's source reservoirs, the Quabbin and Wachusett, can be counted on to safely provide about 300 million gallons per day of water. In the past, people in the service area regularly exceeded this amount. Since 1989, there has been a steady decrease in average water use. There are many reasons for the decrease in water usage including: leak detection and repair, installing low flow plumbing devices in homes and businesses, public information and school education programs, and changes in state plumbing codes, just to name a few.

**GRADE 3-5:** Write an essay or poem explaining how one person's efforts can have an impact on the reduction of water use.

**GRADE 6-8:** Write an essay or poem explaining how people must work together to reduce water usage throughout the service area.

**GRADES 9-12:** Write an essay or poem explaining what you think has had the greatest impact on reduction of water usage over the years.

## WRITING

## RULES

The contest is open to any student who attends a school located in the MWRA service area. To see if you are eligible to participate, to get additional information and to download forms and student labels, visit us online at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) or call the MWRA School Education Program at 617-660-7975 for a complete information packet.

All contest entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

Early entries are encouraged.

All entries must be mailed to:  
MWRA School Contest  
Deer Island Treatment Plant  
Reception/Training Building  
190 Tafts Avenue  
Winthrop, MA 02152

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Grade K – 12 Educators in the MWRA Service Area**

**From: Meg Tabacsko, Manager – MWRA School Program**

**Date: November 30, 2011**

**Re: MWRA 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Poster/Writing Contest**

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It's time again for the MWRA Annual Poster/Writing Contest. I hope you will consider participating. The contest helps students make the connection between the environment and their faucets and drains.

For the poster contest, all students are being asked to create a poster showing what happens at the Deer Island Treatment Plant. Posters will be judged in 3 categories: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.

For the writing contest, students are being asked to write about the reduction in average water use throughout the MWRA Service Area. Writing entries will be judged in 3 categories: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 and the topic is different for each category.

**Grade 3-5:** Write an essay or poem explaining how one person's efforts can have an impact on the reduction of water use.

**Grades 6-8:** Write an essay or poem explaining how people must work together to reduce water usage throughout the service area.

**Grade 9-12:** Write an essay or poem explaining what you think has had the greatest impact on the reduction of water usage over the years.

The **contest deadline** is – **Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. Early entries are encouraged and can be sent at any time. All entries must be mailed to:

**MWRA School Contest  
Deer Island Treatment Plant  
Reception/Training Building  
190 Tafts Ave.  
Winthrop, MA 02152**

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The contest is open to any student who lives in or attends a school located in the MWRA Service Area. To see if you are eligible to participate, to get additional information, and to download forms and student labels, visit us online at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com).

Please post the enclosed flyer in your classroom.

Every group of student entries must have a Contest Registration Form and each entry must have a Student Label attached securely to the back of the entry. These are included in this packet and can also be downloaded from the MWRA's website.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us) or at 617-660-7975 if you have any questions or need additional information. Good luck!

## MWRA Poster/Writing Contest Rules & Details

### Poster Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades K-8 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or any student who lives in the MWRA district. Prizes are awarded in three categories: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. All artwork must be the student's work, and only individual (not group) entries will be accepted.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on originality, clarity of message, use of materials, and quality of work.
What size should entries be?	Posters should be no smaller than 8 ½ x 11 and no larger than 18 x 24. <b>Note:</b> Posters will be returned only if indicated on the registration form.

### Writing Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades 3-12 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or live in the MWRA district. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 and only individual (not group) entries will be accepted. No audio or video entries will be accepted.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on factual accuracy, originality, creativity, clarity of thought, readability and persuasiveness.
How long should entries be?	Entries should be no longer than two single-sided pages and may be typed or written neatly in ink. <b>Note:</b> Writing entries will not be returned.

### Both Contests



Question	Answer
When is the contest deadline?	Entries must be postmarked by <b>Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b> . Early entries encouraged.
What are the packaging instructions?	A Student Label must be attached to each entry. The label must be taped or glued securely to the back of the entry (no paper clips or staples). You may create your own label or neatly write information on the back of the entry as long as all information is included. Teachers must fill in the Contest Registration Form stating the grade level(s) and number of entries. If there are entries from more than one grade level, fill out separate forms.
Can entries be dropped off at the MWRA?	All entries must be mailed to the address indicated on the Contest Registration Form.
What are the prizes?	The first place winner in each category receives a \$100 gift check. Second prize is a \$50 check and third prize is a \$25 check. Honorable Mention Awards will recognize other outstanding entries and each student who participates receives a certificate.
When will winners be announced?	Winners will be notified by mid April. Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on Friday, May 25, 2012 at the Deer Island Treatment Plant. Contest winners, their families, teachers and principals are all invited to attend the ceremony.
Where can I get more information?	For information or to download forms, go to <a href="http://www.mwra.com">www.mwra.com</a> and click on <b>school program</b> .

## 2011/12 MWRA School Contest Registration Form

To be completed by the teacher and submitted with every packet of entries. Each individual entry must have a Student Label attached to the back of the entry.

(Please print)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the entry information in the table below:

Entry Type	Number of Entries Included	Grade
Poster *		
Writing		

\* Posters will only be returned if indicated below. If nothing is indicated, the posters will be recycled. Please return posters: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

All entries should be sent to: **MWRA School Contest**  
**Deer Island Treatment Plant**  
**Reception/Training Building**  
**190 Tafts Avenue**  
**Winthrop, MA 02152**

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Entries Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Entered on Database: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificates Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Teacher Information**

### **Q. Does the entire class have to participate?**

**A.** While some teachers have their entire class participate, others make it optional or offer it as a means of extra credit. If you only have a few entries, we do ask that you still complete the Contest Registration Form and make sure the students fill out the Student Label and attach it securely to the back of the entry.

### **Q. Where do I get the Registration Form and Student Labels?**

**A.** Information packets that included a flyer announcing the contest, a registration form, student labels, and a rules and regulations sheet were mailed to schools in late November/Early December 2011. If you did not receive the information packet, please contact Meg Tabacsko at [meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us). You can also download all the information from this page.

### **Q. If the entire class participates, should I sort through and only send in the best?**

**A.** No, please send them all. This helps us know how many students took part in the contest and enables us to send a certificate of participation to every entrant.

### **Q. May I assist my students in any way?**

**A.** We encourage class discussion to make sure the students stay on topic, but we ask that all work be done by the students themselves. We do allow teachers to assist students in grade K-2 with labeling and mounting of posters.

### **Q. Do posters have to be labeled and mounted?**

**A.** No, but posters must be no smaller than 8.5" X 11" and no larger than 18" X 24".

### **Q. Must the writing entries be done on a computer?**

**A.** No, they can be written neatly in ink. Writing entries should be no longer than 2 pages and use only one side of the paper.

### **Q. When is the contest deadline?**

**A.** The contest deadline is Wednesday, March 14, 2012. Entries must be postmarked by this date and early entries are encouraged. Entries should be mailed to:

**MWRA School Contest  
Deer Island Treatment Plant  
Reception/Training Building  
190 Tafts Ave.  
Winthrop, MA 02152**

## **Frequently Asked Contest Questions (students)**

### **General Questions about the Poster/Writing Contest**

#### **Q. What are the prizes?**

- A.** First prize in each category is a \$100.00 gift check, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a \$50.00 check, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a \$25.00 check. In the poster contest there are (3) categories K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. In the writing contest the (3) categories are 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. In each of the (6) categories there is a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and (3) honorable mention winners. All winners, including honorable mention winners, are invited with their families to an Awards Ceremony at Deer Island on May 25, 2012.

Everyone who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation – suitable for framing!

#### **Q. What information needs to be included with my poster and/or writing entry?**

- A.** All posters and writing entries must have a completed Student Label attached to the back of the entry. Labels should be taped or glued to the back of the entry. Please do not paper clip or staple the student label to your entry as it might fall off. If we don't know who the entry belongs to, you cannot win.

#### **Q. Where do I get a Student Label?**

- A.** Ask your teacher for one or you can download Student Labels this web site.

#### **Q. May I enter both the poster and writing contests?**

- A.** If you are in grades 3-8, you may enter both contests.

#### **Q. How will I be notified if I win?**

- A.** Teachers will be notified via email if they have winners in their class in April 2012.

### **Questions about the Poster Contest**

#### **Q. What is the topic for this year's poster contest?**

- A.** All students in K – 8 are being asked to create a poster showing what happens at Deer Island. Deer Island is the site of the MWRA's state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant that treats an average of 350 million gallons of wastewater each day from 43 communities in greater Boston. Deer Island currently self generates 23% of its electricity

needs and more than half of the Island's energy demand is provided by on-site, renewable generation. A lot goes on at the 210 acre "island" both inside the facility and out. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to take advantage of the 2.5 mile public access walkway that surrounds the Deer Island Treatment Plant. You will see the methane producing egg-shaped digesters, the solar panels, wind turbines and much, much more.

**Q. What makes a good poster?**

**A.** Make sure your poster is on topic. Don't try to include too many ideas or activities on your poster. A single message, clearly illustrated, is more effective. If you use lettering, make sure it can be read from across a room.

**Q. Can friends work on posters together?**

**A.** No, only individual work will be accepted.

**Q. Do posters have to be drawings?**

**A.** No, posters can be any form of art you choose to express the topic. You can create a collage with pictures cut out of a magazine, you can use pieces of fabric or you can create a drawing using markers, crayons, paints, or charcoal. We are looking for unique and creative works of art.

Posters must be no smaller than 8.5" X 11" and no bigger than 18" X 24". Be sure to attach a Student Label to the back of your poster.

**Q. How will my poster be judged?**

**A.** A panel of judges scores the posters on originality, clarity of message, creative and artistic use of materials, and quality of work.

**Questions about the Writing Contest**

**Q. What is the topic for this year's writing contest?**

**A.** Students in **grades 3-5** are being asked to write an essay or poem explaining how one person's efforts can have an impact on the reduction of water use.

Students in **grades 6-8** are being asked to write an essay or poem explaining how people must work together to reduce water usage throughout the service area.

Students in **grades 9-12** are being asked to write an essay or poem explaining what you think has had the greatest impact on the reduction of water usage over the years.



**Q. What makes a good writing entry?**

**A.** First, be sure your entry addresses the question. As good as a piece might be, if it isn't on topic, it can't win a prize. Then, use your creativity to make your entry stand out. The reader should remember your work because there was something unique about it. An essay can be just as creative as a poem or dialogue, if it has a clear theme and develops it cleverly.

**Q. Where can I get information about the contest topics?**

**A.** You can find plenty of information throughout the MWRA's website. There are most likely newspaper and magazine articles at your local or school library on this topic. Also, talk with your relatives and friends. They may have some personal experiences or information that may be useful.

**Q. Do I have to write my entry on a computer?**

**A.** Writing entries may be written neatly in ink and can be no longer than two pages. Please use only one side of the paper and be sure to attach a Student Label securely to the back of your entry. Audio and video entries will not be accepted.

**Q. How will my writing entry be judged?**

**A.** MWRA staff will select the best entries in each category. Copies will be given to a judging panel, who will first read and rate them and then meet to decide the winners. Writing entries will be judged on factual accuracy, creativity, originality and persuasiveness.

**MWRA SCHOOL CONTEST STUDENT LABEL**

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_