



mycommunity,  
our earth

Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

PARTNER UPDATE  
**SPECIAL ISSUE**  
June 2005

## OUTSTANDING YOUTH PROJECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD RECEIVE MyCOE 2005 RECOGNITION

My Community, Our Earth is pleased to announce the results of our recent youth campaign. By the March 2005 deadline, the program had received **55 new submissions** describing local projects involving approximately **200 young people** around the world. Individuals and teams of students from primary, middle, secondary school, college and universities sent in written descriptions and maps of research on sustainable development issues conducted using geographic methods.

A committee of experts reviewed submissions and selected the most outstanding projects from among **22 finalists** (See also page 2). The highest overall score was awarded to a project submitted from a team of young secondary school students from the Wolmer's Girls School in Kingston, Jamaica, entitled "Bull Bay: A Town Ravaged by Nature." The highest scoring project submitted from among primary and middle schools also came from Jamaica, exploring "Transportation in Jamaica and the Jamaican Urban Transportation Corporation." Among college and university age students, the highest scoring project came from a student in Houston, Texas, USA, examining "Air Quality and Environmental Justice: An Analysis of Air Pollution and Wealth Distribution."

The MyCOE program received projects on a wide range of sustainable development topics, including **Mountain Ecosystems, Land Use, Alternative Energy, Health, Water, Transportation, Poverty, and Ecotourism**, among others. Projects examined sustainable development in numerous locations around the world, including **Poland, Turkey, Finland, Canada, Nigeria, China, Kenya, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Argentina, Jamaica, Lithuania, and the United States**. A number of projects were conducted by groups also working with 4-H or the GLOBE Program.

All participants will receive an educational kit that includes books, maps, and other geographic educational materials along with a personalized certificate of participation. Other prizes include mini-digital cameras, ESRI software and training, and a Trimble GPS Unit.



◀ The MyCOE Booth at the EPA's P3 event in Washington, D.C.

▼ Many of the top 2005 MyCOE project submissions were featured at the May 16-17 display inside a tent on the National Mall. (photos courtesy of Nik Schiller).



### Many Thanks to...

the Pre-screening and Selection Committees who reviewed the 2005 youth projects:

Adela Backiel and Greg Crosby, USDA; CJ Côté, ESRI; Joseph Kerski, USGS; Michael Solem, AAG; Danilo Piaggese, IDB; Diane Tate and Griffin Thompson, US Department of State; Mick Garrett, Trimble; Joseph Hartenstine White Water to Blue Water Partnership; Tom Tate and Jim Kahler, USDA/4-H.

The 2005 Youth Recognition Program has received significant support from the US Department of Agriculture. MyCOE appreciates our partners and friends who have provided prizes and gifts for our youth participants, including Trimble, ESRI, USDA, AAG, and USGS.



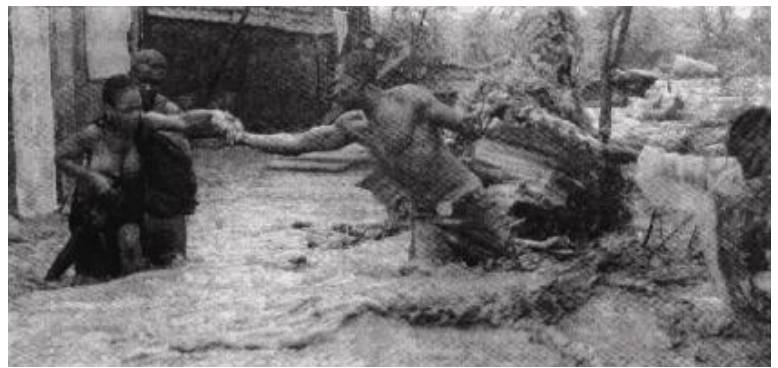
See Project Descriptions, Page 2

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) is a multi-institutional educational initiative and World Summit on Sustainable Development Partnership involving secondary, college, and university students worldwide in using geographic methods and tools to address local sustainable development. Partners include the AAG (Secretariat), National Geographic Society, ESRI, UNEP, State Department, USAID, USDA, NOAA, IDB, ONR, and USGS. **FOR MORE INFORMATION** point your browser to [www.geography.org/sustainable](http://www.geography.org/sustainable) or email the MyCOE Secretariat at [psolis@aag.org](mailto:psolis@aag.org). **ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST** should be sent with the name and email address to Dr. Patricia Solís at [psolis@aag.org](mailto:psolis@aag.org). Previous updates are posted online at [www.geography.org/sustainable/2003-2004programs/partner.htm](http://www.geography.org/sustainable/2003-2004programs/partner.htm).



**GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING**  
for Sustainable Development

# My Community, Our Earth 2005 Outstanding Projects

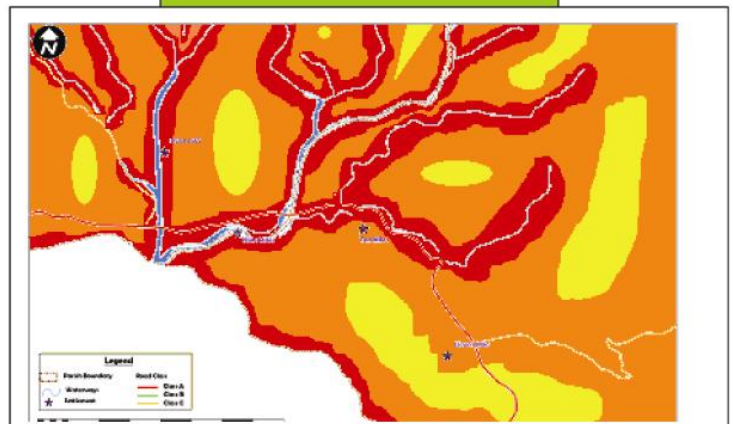


## SECONDARY SCHOOL

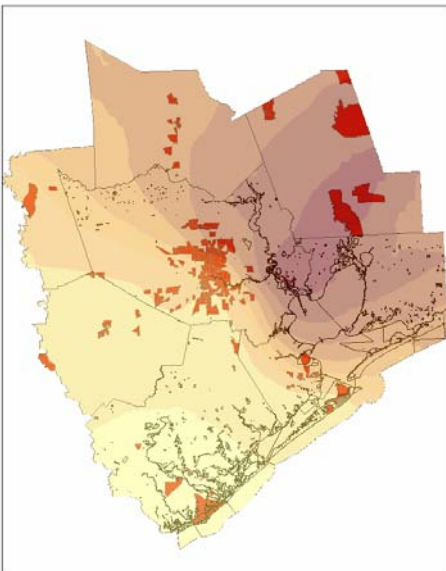
### “Bull Bay: A Town Ravaged by Nature.”

The highest overall score was awarded to a project submitted from a team of young secondary school students from the Wolmer’s Girls School in Kingston, Jamaica, entitled “Bull Bay: A Town Ravaged by Nature.” The team created a hazard map based upon a risk analysis of areas prone to severe flooding. The youth recommended that the government employ hazard risk maps, much like the one the girls created. Among other suggestions, the project also recommended reforestation efforts along certain hillside areas with steep slopes. ▶

MAP 3: HAZARD MAP FOR BULL BAY



OZONE LEVELS FOR JUNE 4, 2004 EPA REGION 12



Ozone Levels - June 4	38.022129 - 44.002281	56.659451 - 62.629602
20.000000 - 30.208702	44.002281 - 49.579308	52.629603 - 70.453026
30.208702 - 38.022129	49.579308 - 52.082424	70.453026 - 80.661726
	52.082424 - 56.659451	80.661726 - 94.000000

Wind: SE  
6-8 MPH

## PRIMARY / MIDDLE SCHOOL

### “Transportation in Jamaica and the JUTC.”

The highest scoring project among primary and middle schools also came from Jamaica, exploring public transportation in Kingston. The students conducted surveys of taxi drivers and bus riders to understand the problems and needs of local commuters. Recommendations included improvements in public safety to encourage use of public transportation and to deter illegal and unsustainable modes of travel. ▼

## COLLEGE LEVEL

### “Air Quality and Environmental Justice: An Analysis of Air Pollution and Wealth Distribution.”

▲ Among college and university age participants, the highest scoring project was submitted by a student in Houston, Texas, USA, examining the relationship between where the most dangerous levels of ozone were found and the spatial pattern of income of local residents. The project recommends targeted research on health issues with respect to school attendance areas and weather patterns.



View All 2005 MyCOE Project Finalist Submissions in the Online Gallery at  
[http://www.aag.org/sustainable/project\\_uploads/ProjectShowcase/view.cfm](http://www.aag.org/sustainable/project_uploads/ProjectShowcase/view.cfm)