



Tomorrow: 4th Annual Boston Climate Change Summit for Youth, Educators ***National Wildlife Federation and FTL Solar award Boston Latin School solar tent for use as outdoor classroom***

RESTON, Va. (May 21, 2010)—Saturday is the 4th Annual Boston Climate Change Summit at MIT's Strata Center. At the event, National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and FTL Solar will award Boston Latin School (BLS) a solar tent for use as an outdoor classroom. More than 100 students participated in NWF's **Eco-Schools USA** contest by making "green wishes" for their school, and BLS won the competition's grand prize.

The grand prize solar tent is FTL's Solar PowerMod, a freestanding 10X10 self-sustaining solar powered structure. The innovative structure integrates a solar array capable of turning sunlight into electricity and producing 1 kilowatt hour per day. Similar structures are in use as relief shelters, command centers, military bases, medical units, temporary housing, research posts and energy pods for small villages.

"BLS and the Youth Climate Action Network have shown incredible leadership on addressing the challenges and opportunities for addressing climate change. We are excited that they will serve as a strong example of success for our emerging Eco-Schools program, and encourage their peers and more schools to get involved," said **Elizabeth Soper**, Associate Director of Eco-Schools with National Wildlife Federation.

Media are encouraged to attend Saturday's awards at 10:45 a.m. at MIT's Strata Center, located at 32 Vassar Street, Building 32, in Cambridge, MA. There will be an array of workshops offered including a presentation by Chris Hilke, Safeguard Coordinator for the Northeast office of the National Wildlife Federation. Chris will be presenting a session on Safeguarding Wildlife from Climate Change. The Alliance for Climate Education will also be presenting an interactive presentation, starting at 9:30 a.m. **The summit is free** to all who pre-register online; breakfast and lunch provided. Visit www.blsyouthcan.org for more information.

"We are extremely pleased that the hard-working and enthusiastic students from Boston Youth CAN won. We know the students and teachers at Boston Latin School will use the solar tent to educate their immediate school community about the advantages and practicality of solar energy and demonstrate to the greater community and their generation that green energy choices are available for everyone," said **Tony Saxton**, FTL Solar CEO.

Inspired by the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, students at the Boston Latin School founded its Youth Climate Action Network (BLS Youth CAN) in 2007. The group with help from the Northeast office of the National Wildlife Federation located in Montpelier, VT has since created

a network of youth climate action clubs in 18 schools throughout the eastern MA area and is currently engaged in an “education for sustainability” campaign to bring climate change education to all schools in Massachusetts.

"Our students involved in BLS Youth CAN are delighted and excited to have won this solar tent from FTL Solar and NWF. Our school and the Youth Climate Action Network are working on all levels to become a sustainable school and the opportunities it brings for both renewable energy generation and hands-on education are fantastic. We see this solar tent as one more step in our school and other Youth CAN schools engaging in NWF's Eco-Schools USA program and as part of our new green roof initiative," said **Rebecca Park**, Senior Leadership, BLS Youth CAN.

Boston Latin School was one of the first schools in the U.S. to register with NWF's new **Eco-Schools USA** program, part of a rapidly-growing international network of 30,000 schools in 48 nations worldwide. The program deploys teams of students, administrators, teachers and community volunteers to make school buildings, grounds and curriculum greener, while increasing students' environmental awareness and encouraging them to take action. Boston Latin School is planning a green roof project as part of their Eco-Schools USA action plan.

Additional Information

FTL SOLAR: FTL Solar is the world's first developer and manufacturer of lightweight, flexible, tensile fabrics and structures embedded with thin-film solar cells. The Texas-based company's products can be scaled to shelter and power a range of mission-critical applications; in remote regions, these power-generating shelters eliminate the need to transport and burn fossil fuels. For more information visit www.ftlsolar.com.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION and ECO-SCHOOLS USA: National Wildlife Federation is the nation's largest conservation education organization, inspiring and motivating more than five million members, partners, affiliates, and supporters to seek solutions to reduce global warming, protect and restore wildlife habitat, and connect people of all ages with nature. National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program is aimed at helping U.S. K-12 public, private and charter schools green their school grounds, buildings, educational programming and student experience. For more information visit www.eco-schoolsUSA.org.

NWF's NORTHEAST REGIONAL CENTER located in Montpelier, VT is the region's largest conservation organization with more than 600,000 members and supporters in New York, New Jersey and all of New England. For more than 30 years, the Northeast Regional Center has protected forests, rivers and other critical wildlife habitats; reintroduced bald eagles and peregrine falcons; reduced mercury pollution; and developed model educational programs. Our fourteen member staff includes experts in wildlife, global warming, clean energy, sustainable forestry, air and water pollution, education, and urban environmental issues. <http://www.nwf.org/Regional-Centers/Northeast.aspx>

ABOUT YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK: The Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network (BLS Youth CAN) was founded in 2007. Boston Latin School, part of the Boston Public School System, is the oldest school in America and celebrating its 375th anniversary. BLS Youth CAN helped lessen the school's carbon footprint by arranging for a building-wide energy audit, starting a capital campaign to fund a green roof, and bringing zero-

sort recycling to the school, as well as participating in the National Teach-In on global climate change. For more information visit www.bls.org and www.blsyouthcan.org.

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