Greater San Diego:
Science & Engineering Fair

The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department is pleased to recognize the following students whose Science Fair projects were selected as outstanding examples of environmental science and research. The department's panel of environmental professionals judged more than 80 projects and these students were selected as winners because of their clear, concise presentation, thorough research and the value of their projects to the preservation of San Diego's environment.

Senior Division

First Place  Eliot Ross, High Tech High School
Common Fertilizer’s Effect on California Native Flowers.
Eliot’s project studied the effects of weed and feed on seed germination of poppies, cosmos, and alyssums. Weed and feed caused fewer seeds to germinate and slowed growth in the ones that did germinate.

Second Place  Kevin Cheng, High Tech High School
Effects of New and Used Motor Oil on Plants.
Kevin examined how new and used motor oil affected the germination and growth of poppy sprouts when compared to the control which had no oil. Both new and used motor oil limited growth of the sprouts, with new motor oil having the most deleterious effects.

Junior Division

First Place  Bryce Caputo, Marshall Middle School
What Goes Around Comes Around: Turning Trash into Fuel
Bryce created ethyl alcohol in a homemade still from food waste and yeast. He concluded that enough alcohol could be created from an average family's food waste in one week to power a house for 8 days.

Second Place  Kareem Salem, Muirlands Middle School
Toxic Commercial vs. Non-toxic Homemade Cleaners: Which Will Make Your Tile Shine?
Kareem compared the results of a homemade non-toxic cleaner with a commercial cleaner on tile that was stained with coffee. Results showed that the homemade cleaner worked better at removing the stains.

Honorable Mention

Thomas Logsdon
Bonita Vista High School
Chef Boyardiesel (biodiesel).

Katherine Humphus
IDEA@Crawford Complex

Matthew Bruder
Oak Grove Middle School
Photovoltaics.

Benjamin Wagner
Oak Grove Middle School
Does Soil Matter? Worms in their World.

Congratulations to All Students for their Outstanding Scientific Achievements!