

SMRPC and MTA Receive Clean Air Excellence Award

The *MOVE!* Program, hosted by the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission and sponsored by the Maine Turnpike Authority, has been awarded a Clean Air Excellence Award in the Education and Outreach category by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

MOVE!, created to provide air-quality-based education from a transportation perspective, is a K-12 multi-disciplinary education program that promotes student awareness and understanding of the environmental, economic, societal, historical and technological elements of transportation and its impacts. The program supports existing classroom units of study, aligns with the Maine Learning Results and encourages students to use grade-appropriate skills in mathematics, reading, writing, science, social studies, technology, visual arts and career preparation.

Kevin Grover, Falmouth 2nd grade teacher and 2010 Teacher of the Year, provided the following: “As teachers we are constantly looking for ways to enrich our students' learning. *MOVE!* is a perfect way to connect the real world to classroom instruction. The *MOVE!* programs we have taken advantage of are developmentally appropriate, correspond with our established grade level curriculum and come at no cost to our school system. It helps that the lessons are managed and taught by a fun, organized and very kid-friendly instructor. *MOVE!* is a quality enrichment program.”

The *MOVE!* Program centers around three concepts: Connections, Choices and Consequences. These themes are incorporated into all classroom presentations, teacher workshops and educational resources. Over the last 11 years *MOVE!* has provided presentations to more than 20,000 students and has extended learning opportunities and teaching resources to hundreds of educators in southern Maine.

One such presentation developed by *MOVE!*, *Trip Chainers*, allows middle-school students to collect their own transportation data and use it to calculate impacts such as CO₂ output/savings and fuel used/saved. Students learn that by changing habits and thinking ahead—such as trip chaining, which combines several errands into one trip—they can generate real savings in pollution output and resources used. Other presentations such as *Map Skills; Data Gathering and Graphing; The Lean and Green Challenge; Pollution;* and *Climate Change* are other examples of classroom presentations and activities developed by *MOVE!* that engage students in core-learning activities while also making them aware of transportation choices and impacts.

“The Maine Turnpike Authority has proudly sponsored the *MOVE!* Program since its inception 11 years ago,” said MTA Government Relations Manager Conrad Welzel. “We’re pleased that it has become an effective educational tool and gratified to see it earn national recognition by the EPA”

The Clean Air Excellence Awards program, sponsored by the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, was established in 2000 at the recommendation of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, a senior-level policy committee that advises EPA on issues related to implementing the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant

emissions, demonstrate innovation and uniqueness, provide a model for others to follow, and offer sustainable outcomes.

To learn more about *MOVE!* visit www.TheMoveProgram.org or contact Dave Carpenter at (207) 324-1437 or dcarpenter@TheMoveProgram.org.