



News Feature

Contact: Jim Roberts
(850) 476-5110 ext. 2245
jim_roberts@ecua.org

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Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Participates in the "I LOVE Science" Program

Program Helps to Encourage 5th Graders with Hands-On Activities

PENSACOLA—The Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) has begun its fourth year of participation in the "I LOVE Science" Program (Increasing Local Opportunities for Volunteers Enthusiastic about Science). The volunteer program was launched in 2006 to increase the frequency of hands-on science activities in local schools, inspire future scientists, and to improve FCAT science scores. Evidence shows that participation in the program will increase students' interest in, and knowledge of science. In addition, science role models can increase students' interest in pursuing scientific careers.

In order to participate, Stephen Sorrell, ECUA executive director, requested the schoolroom agenda include information on the ECUA, and its environmental programs. Beginning Tuesday, October 27, 5th graders at Ensley Elementary School will learn about the FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) Program, which is designed to reduce the number of sewer pipe blockages caused by the improper disposal of fats, oils, and grease into sewer drains. The students will also be introduced to the ECUA Residential Curbside Recycling Program that provides recycling service to over 73,000 customers in Escambia County.

Sandra McCreary, ECUA environmental control program coordinator, and volunteer instructor says, "Volunteerism is the way to go, it's an excellent way for children to know people are concerned about their success. There are many young people who don't have an opportunity to see an African American female role model, so I want to change their perception through an education program that will prepare them for the future."

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