Ocean explorer Fabien Cousteau™ to speak at 2011 Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education

HAMPTON, N.H. - April 26, 2011- Fabien Cousteau™, third generation Ocean Explorer and founder of Plant a Fish™, to speak at the 17th annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education on May 3, 2011.

The Symposium for Environment and Education, sponsored by Wheelabrator Technologies, will take place May 3 and 4 in Sunrise, Florida. More than 150 middle school students will share their experiences tackling environmental issues close to their homes. Cousteau will attend the annual dinner and present Plant a Fish™ initiatives as a way for students, teachers, and parents to develop problem-solving techniques to improve the environment in their local communities.

Continuing this legacy of exploration and marine life protection pioneered by Cousteau's grandfather Jacques Yves Cousteau, Plant a Fish™ is a hands-on program that strives to educate and engage people in greater ocean awareness and ultimately ocean stewardship, beginning with the simple act of “planting a fish.”

“My grandfather often said that ‘People protect what they love.’ The mission of Plant a Fish™ is to help people learn more, and ultimately care more, by ‘getting wet’ and getting involved in restoring and protecting water bodies and marine life,” said Fabien Cousteau™, founder, Plant A Fish™. “It is the job of each of us to pass to the next generation a passion for studying the environment and provide support to them to make a difference to improve the planet. I commend Wheelabrator for providing the opportunity to these students to conduct these research projects.”

In preparation of the Symposium, middle-school students representing New England, the mid-Atlantic, and Florida commit to a six-month learning project, identifying an environmental challenge in their community and developing a long-term solution. Under the guidance of educators and Wheelabrator employees, students apply lessons learned in the classroom to real-life situations. At the center of the two-day event is a day of presentations on environmental solutions followed by an awards banquet.

“This is the generation that’s going to inherit our environmental legacy,” said Bill Roberts, vice president of operations at Wheelabrator. “Every year that we sponsor this event feels like a little more we’re preparing them to leave the world better than they found it.”

This year's presentations include creating gardening space for locally grown produce, composting cafeteria waste, recycling office supplies, studying the chemical content of cosmetics, and the proper disposal of prescription medications. One school is studying the heal effects of electronic devises and using plants to clean the air in schools and offices. Another is designing an interactive activity and alternative energy curriculum to educate elementary school students about renewable energy. Students in Florida studied mangroves and the value they play for a healthy aquatic planet.

The day after the ideas presentation and awards is given over to fun for the students and their chaperones as Wheelabrator treats them to a day at the Miami Seaquarium.

About Wheelabrator Technologies
A wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management of Houston, Texas, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. is a world leader in the safe and environmentally sound conversion of municipal solid waste and other renewable waste fuels into clean energy. Wheelabrator’s 17 waste-to-energy facilities provide safe waste disposal for towns and cities across the U.S. Wheelabrator also operates five
independent power plants designed to generate electricity using an assortment of fuels, including waste wood, tires, waste coal, and natural gas. In addition to producing electricity, some of these facilities also produce steam sold to nearby government and commercial establishments. Wheelabrator’s 22 facilities have a combined electric generating capacity of 896 megawatts, enough energy to power more than 985,000 homes. To learn more, visit www.wheelabrortotechnologies.com.

About Waste Management
Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company’s customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more, visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.

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