



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

T – 04 – 10

Maziar Movassaghi, Acting Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2010

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ANNOUNCES GREEN CHEMISTRY AWARD WINNER

SACRAMENTO, CA – A high school student from Folsom is the first recipient of the Green Chemistry Award established this year by Cal/EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The award was presented March 27, 2010 at the Sacramento Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Rosemont High School in Sacramento.

Shyamal Buch of Vista del Lago High School won the award for his project looking at an environmentally friendly, non-toxic organic dye that can be used in the development of solar cells. It is a complex project with an equally complex title- "Green Synthesis of Nanowires on FTO Substrates for Organic Dye-Based Solar Cells: Analysis with New Rapid D-SCOPE 2.0".

Students used the principles of green chemistry as the foundation for their projects. Green chemistry is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances.

"It is important to get this generation interested in green chemistry," said Maziar Movassaghi, DTSC's Acting Director. "It will eventually be up to these young people to come up with ways to reduce the public's exposure to toxic chemicals and processes."

Other students winning Green Chemistry Awards included Sarah Liu of Natomas Charter School in the junior division, and Rohit Talreja and Mark Rupasinghe of Folsom High School in the team division.

Two hundred fifty students from public, private and parochial schools in Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, Solano, and Amador counties participated in the fair that showcased their projects. They competed in several age and science categories. The winners now advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and the California State Science Fair.

View photos of the winning project at:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/GreenChemistryInitiative/GCawards.cfm>

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The Mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.