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**For Immediate Release**

# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT TO DREAM IN GREEN

“Nearly \$65,000 awarded for implementation of the Green Schools Challenge”

**September 24, 2013 – Miami, Fla.** – Miami –Dade County (MDC) has announced that Dream in Green, Inc. is the recipient of an Environmental Education Community-based Grant and will receive funding for the implementation of its Green Schools Challenge starting in October 2013. MDC received 19 applications from environmental non-profits countywide making the process very competitive. DIG scored the highest of all applicants with a score of 98.8!

“Dream in Green is honored to receive the opportunity to continue expanding the Green Schools Challenge in Miami-Dade schools. We are extremely grateful to Miami-Dade County for its ongoing support.” said Nick Gunia, President and Co-Founder of Dream in Green.

The Green Schools Challenge began in 2006 and has expanded from three to 165 K-12 schools in Miami-Dade. In the first seven years of the program, students saved schools approximately \$9.5 million in energy costs while conserving 13.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity through simple low w- and no-cost solutions like turning off lights and unplugging electronics. Combined with other projects like planting trees, these student-led initiatives helped reduce or offset approximately 24.7 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of taking 1,320 homes off the electricity grid for an entire year.

This year, DIG will partner with the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department to also track water consumption at participating schools. In addition, the GSC will help reinforce the water conservation message in designated impaired water areas by incorporating additional water conversation modules into their GSC curriculum, and hosting workshops for the students’ parents. These areas, as designated by Miami-Dade County, include: North Canal, Cutler Drain, Snapper Creek, Coral Gables Waterway, Miami Canal, Miami River, Little River, Biscayne Canal, and Snake Creek.

Dream in Green would like to thank the Miami-Dade County Grants Division, Division of Environmental Resources Management and Water and Sewer Department, as well as Miami-Dade County Public Schools, for their support and contributions to the Green Schools Challenge. We look forward to working with these community partners to further educate our children, teachers and residents.

## **About Dream in Green**

Dream in Green (DIG) is a Miami-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on promoting energy and water conservation and environmental sustainability in South Florida through innovative educational programs. DIG builds partnerships with schools, local governments, organizations and businesses for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and our reliance on fossil fuels. Its programs emphasize education and behavior change. DIG is best known for its award-winning Green Schools Challenge program, currently in its seventh year and serving 165 schools and over 160,000 K-12 students, teachers and staff members in Miami-Dade County. DIG’s second most successful program is the Home Energy Savings Program which aims to reverse the trend of global climate change by providing homeowners with information, resources and incentives to reduce household energy and water consumption and minimize waste. It has allowed households to reduce utility costs by 30-40% and lower their carbon emissions by 10,000 pounds per year.

## **About Miami-Dade County**

Miami-Dade County (MDC) is located along the southeast tip of the Florida peninsula and encompasses more than 2,000 square miles. One-third of the County is located in the Everglades National Park, a World Heritage site. The County is bounded by Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Everglades National Park to the west, and the Florida Keys to the south. It is home to thirty-five incorporated cities and a large unincorporated area. Since MDC is one of America’s most vulnerable communities, its focus is to achieve aggressive water, energy, climate change, and greenhouse gas reduction goals to sustain ourselves, our community and our natural resources. Through its award-winning outreach and water and energy conservation programs, MDC is working towards a sustainable future with opportunities for economic growth and a better quality of life.

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