



# EarthWatch Rhode Island



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DEM Participates in “Green Career Expo” at Providence’s Alvarez  
School

High

**Date:** March 27, 2009

**Location:** Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School Cafeteria  
325 Adelaide Ave., Providence

## Background

Department of Environmental Management Director W. Michael Sullivan, PhD, along with staff from DEM’s Offices of Water Resources, Waste Management, and Customer and Technical Assistance, took part in the first Green Career Expo at Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School on Friday, March 27.

Approximately 500 students in grades nine through 12 attended the career day. The event was designed to introduce all the school’s students to careers in the green industry and explain to students what it means to “go green.” Program organizers believe this exposure will help create excellent learning opportunities and other pathways to success for the students in environmentally-friendly industries and organizations that employ green practices. At the event, students had an opportunity to visit a wide range of information booths and gather information and ask questions about careers in the green industry. School organizers lined up nearly two dozen organizations and agencies to take part in the event.

DEM’s booth featured various posters describing the work that DEM does, along with staff members that spoke with students about the skills involved in various career opportunities in the field of environmental science and management. Among the programs showcased by DEM was a poster entitled “Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School: From Abandoned Factory to School Complex.” Produced specifically for this event by DEM’s Office of Waste Management, the poster describes the site investigation and remediation activities that were performed at the former Gorham/Textron site on which Alvarez High School is located, as well as site planning and construction for the Alvarez School complex. Major categories include Investigation and Clean Up, Environmental Analysis Testing Air, Water and Soil, Policy and Outreach, School Construction, and Parks and Recreation. Under each category of work performed at the school site is a corresponding list of job titles. DEM will also have posters and handouts focusing on water quality and wetlands protection.

## Interviewees:

**W. Michael Sullivan, PhD, Director of the Department of Environmental Management,** talked about why DEM is committed to participating in this outreach effort, how the event impacted students in their career choices and made them aware of opportunities in the environmental field, and provided

a brief overview of the DEM poster describing the work involved in cleaning up the former Gorham/Textron site for construction of the Alvarez High School.

**Wobberson Torchon, Principal of Alvarez High School**, talked about why the school is sponsoring this first Green Career Expo and what he hoped the students learned from the event.

**Visuals:**

DEM poster, "From Abandoned Factory to School Complex: Green Career Professionals at Work"  
This poster will describe the site investigation and remediation activities at the former Gorham/Textron site where Alvarez High School is located. In addition, the poster will cover site planning and construction for the Alvarez school complex.

DEM Director and staff interacting with students at booth

Various informational booths at the Expo- among them include Citizens Bank, RI Resource Recovery Corporation, US Department of Agriculture, Farm Fresh RI, Clean Water Action

Exterior shots of Alvarez High School site