

Video Transcript for “MWEE Action Projects”  
Posted by: Chesapeake Bay Program

**Text:** Action Projects: Students design and implement projects to address the issue they investigated

**Video images:** Students on taking action along the Anacostia River by planting, Interview with Mr. Mangiaracina, text: Mike Mangiaracina, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, DC Public Schools

**Narration:** So this is the culminating moment of the Rice Rangers Project. We spent about a month or so in school watching some plants grow. We learned about all kinds of issues with the watershed and why these plants help out our watershed. And then here we are today planting them in the actual Anacostia River that we've been studying.

**Video images:** Interview with Ms. Snavelly, text: Kerrie Snavelly, High School Biology, Conestoga Valley School District, PA, images of Ms. Snavelly's students participating in their recycling campaign

**Narration:** We realize that we need to recycle more so let's make something visible to show people this is how you recycle. Our streambank fencing is not a bad thing. We're not keeping cows out and away from water. We're keeping the cows out to keep their nutrient waste from getting into our waterway so educating the kids so that they can promote and tell other people this is what's important. This is my goal to make them stewards so when they hear conversations, now they can be part of it.

**Video images:** Images of Ms. Rouget's students at the stream, Interview with Ms. Rouget, text: Wendy Rouget, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Prince George's Co. Public Schools, MD

**Narration:** A lot of times after we've gone out, I've heard them say they have gone to an area in the park where they didn't go and now they went with their parents. Or that they have talked to neighbors about the importance of recycling. Or they have mentioned some of the rain gardens and how it works.

**Video images:** Interview with Mr. Mangiaracina

**Narration:** I mean...You can't beat this as a visceral hands-on experience. They remember getting muddy. They remember getting wet. But I hope also they remember why we're doing this, which is to help out this river. And I think it's the best way to help these kids identify with what we call their watershed address.

**Video images:** Interview with Ms. Reilly, text: Megan Reilly, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Frederick County Public Schools, VA

**Narration:** We have them do this presentation every year and they can give suggestions, explain historical significance of the James Wood property next door at the Museum. We've done that for years. There just hadn't been the thing they were working up to. It was always hypothetical. So for this year, I really wanted to push with Dale the idea that we needed to do something that was going be real and lasting for the kids, and they could look back fondly on it and be like, we designed this. We built this. This is ours and it needed to come to an end that was rewarding for them.

**Video images:** Students of Ms. Reilly and Ms. Byard in the schoolyard working on their project, Interview with Ms. Reilly, Interview with Ms. Byard, text: Dale Byard, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Frederick County Public Schools, VA

**Narration:** Students had total ownership of this project because it was based on their own analysis of their environment. [Ms. Byard] I think there is an element of ownership when there's a project involved. My kids gave me one hundred and ten percent pretty much every day there, and I don't feel like there were any who just sat off to the side and didn't want anything to do with it. So this was a huge push for a hundred percent engagement which is something we strive for in education and you don't see very often unless you put that extra effort in. [Ms. Reilly] We actually have plans for the next two or three years of how we're going to take this MWEE project and make other MWEE projects that are a part of this, but then going forward and doing more things to help out the watershed. But the most important thing about that is that the students are going to design their MWEE project and implement it. [Ms. Byard]