BUFFALO, NY (May 13, 2015) – NRG Energy, Inc. and Young Audiences have partnered together to bring the NRG Creatively Green Awards Program to WNY. This year, the program awarded three Western New York schools an engaging and dynamic family festival that offers parents and children the chance to participate in hands-on art making in order to better understand the importance of environmental sustainability.

Winning schools are Elmwood Village Charter School, Waterfront Elementary School, and Springville Elementary School. These schools will host a family event, featuring Young Audiences’ artists that will celebrate imagination and creativity while promoting a better understanding of individual and community responsibility to protect our planet.

Events will take place on May 21 at 4:00 pm at Elmwood Village Charter School, June 3rd at 3:00 pm at Waterfront Elementary, and June 10th at 5:30 pm at Springville Elementary.

Festival benefits:
• Excite and educate students about sustainability
• Strengthen connections between families and schools
• Build partnerships with community organizations and businesses

“We at NRG believe that in order to create the future we desire, we must invoke people’s imaginations and lift their awareness to the needs of our environment. Organizations such as Young Audiences help children practice creative problem solving through the arts. Our future - and the health of our planet - will depend on their ability to innovate. We are pleased to be able to give schools and their communities a creatively green family festival through Young Audiences, and to explore new ways we can ‘NRG-ize’ the future caretakers of our planet.” – Carson Leikam, General Manager, New York & New England

2-3 hour family arts festival includes:
• A dynamic performance
• Hands-on art making workshops
• A community art-making project

Hands-on art making workshops will feature Young Audiences’ professional teaching artists that promote environmental sustainability. Teaching artists will include: Altina Fareed Cooke, Augustina Droze, Caessandra Sewall, Gerald Mead, Susie Rozler, The Wondermakers, and more.
Questions about the NRG Creatively Green Awards? Contact us at 716-881-0917 or at artsed@yawny.org

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES: Young Audiences of Western New York’s mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. They provide services in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties. Every day, they fulfill their mission through performances, workshops, and residencies in educational, cultural, and community centers. Young Audiences of Western New York celebrated 50 years of service in 2013.

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