



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Mobilizing Students in the Water Action Decade through the EarthEcho Water Challenge

March 22nd, 9 AM- 1 PM, New York Aquarium

Organized by:

EarthEcho International

Xylem Inc.

New York City Football Club, LLC

Background on the event

Each year on March 22, [EarthEcho International's Water Challenge](#) celebrates community science by hosting water quality monitoring events to coincide with the United Nations' World Water Day. EarthEcho's Water Challenge partners and Water Challenge Ambassadors across the world connected with their local water resources through water quality testing, conservation activities, and community education events. This year, EarthEcho International collaborated with young leaders in the greater New York City Area to attend the 2023 UN Water Conference and hosted a UN Water Conference Side Event in celebration of World Water Day, a fun and engaging day of learning near Coney Island at the Education Hall of the New York Aquarium. Over 60 students from Ocean Hill Collegiate Charter School and P.S. 90 joined EarthEcho on the beach for an in-person event to participate in water protection activities. Thanks to our partners at the New York City Football Club, LLC and Xylem Inc. the day's activities had a lively sport-themed twist and a call to action for youth participants to tackle wastewater within their community. Students learned about the EarthEcho Water Challenge by participating in hands-on water quality testing experiments on the beach near Coney Island and determined parameters for healthy waterways. Students then participated in team building games with the New York City Football Club to gain a deeper understanding of how water connects us all. The final activity was facilitated by Xylem Watermark, where students signed the "Make Your Mark" pledge and learned about the [Water Heroes campaign](#). To conclude the World Water Day event, participants left with tools to identify local needs, develop plans and implement action steps to protect water resources in their own communities.

Water Action Agenda ([Water Action Agenda database](#))

Through the EarthEcho Water Challenge, we commit to supporting 100 youth-led water improvement projects. The EarthEcho Water Challenge equips young leaders around the world to become community scientists by testing their local surface water quality, sharing their data through our global database at monitorwater.org, and using this data to inform actions to protect local waterways. These 100 youth-led projects will result in both improved ecosystem health and water quality in the locations where implemented. In coastal areas, where EarthEcho has a large community network, a reduction in land-based pollution in marine ecosystems can also be anticipated. By activating youth, the EarthEcho Water Challenge builds durability into our initiative through expanded environmental and ocean literacy in the general population. This increased environmental literacy coupled with the community-building nature of youth-led projects builds sustainability and community context into the water improvements.

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/100-youth-led-water-improvement-projects-through-earthecho-water-challenge>

Key Issues discussed

- Water Quality
- Water Pollution
- Land-Based Pollution
- Single-Use Plastic
- Human Impact on Biodiversity

Key recommendations for action

- Community Science
- Water Monitoring
- Youth Action
- Building A Global Youth Movement
- Increase Environmental Literacy
- Water Sustainability