WATCHUNG

Students earn honor for vision of future

On Jan. 14, New Jersey middle school students — including a group from Watchung — met at Rutgers University to plan for the future.

The students were taking part in the 19th annual National Engineers Week Foundation's 2011-2012 New Jersey Future City Competition that invites children in grades 6 to 8 to design and build a city of the future.

This year's theme, "Fuel Your Future: Imagine New Ways to Meet Our Energy Needs and Maintain a Healthy Planet," challenged the students to come up with a new way to generate electricity that does not harm the environment.

Teams had to design a city, build a three-dimensional model of their city using recycled materials, write an essay about how they would generate electricity and introduce and defend their city's viability to judges at the competition.

Team "Electroclean" from Watchung's Valley View Middle School came in sixth place overall.

The first-place winners will compete in the national finals next month during National Engineers Week in Washington, D.C.

To submit news about your school send an e-mail to somerset@starledger.com or hunterdon@starledger.com.