

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Young Eco-Warriors Shine at the "Waste to Win" Prize Giving Ceremony

Georgetown, Guyana – The *Waste to Win Challenge*, an initiative aimed at tackling plastic pollution, concluded with great success today at the Regency Hotel & Suites, where students from across Guyana, including participants from Berbice and Linden, were celebrated for their extraordinary environmental contributions.

Organized by **Policy Forum Guyana (PFG)** in collaboration with **Cevons Waste Management Inc.**, the competition engaged over **60 students** from **20 schools** in a mission to collect and recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Thanks to their combined efforts, an astounding **28,321 plastic bottles** and **7,736 aluminum cans** were saved from entering Guyana's landfills, marking a significant contribution to the country's fight against plastic pollution.

"The enthusiasm and dedication these young people have shown is nothing short of inspiring," said **Benita Davis**, Project Coordinator of Policy Forum Guyana. "Their efforts prove that no action is too small when it comes to fighting plastic pollution. I am immensely proud of what we've achieved together."

The competition's top performers were recognized with **1st to 5th place plaques**, creatively made from shredded plastic bottles collected during the competition. **Lusignan Learning Centre** earned first place in the aluminum cans category, collecting an impressive **1,490 cans**, while the **Bacchus Sisters** from **Sophia** dominated the plastic bottles category with a staggering **14,086 bottles**. Other notable winners included students from **New Central High School, Queens College**, and **Wisburg Secondary School**.

In recognition of their hard work, **all participants** were rewarded along with their teachers, parents, or guardians, who supported and guided them throughout the competition. This highlighted the collective effort required to tackle environmental challenges.

Romina Softleigh-Moseley, representative of Cevons Waste Management, applauded the participants, stating, "The work being done here today reflects the future we want for Guyana—a future where sustainability is at the forefront. These students are leading the way by reducing our plastic footprint, one bottle and can at a time."

The winners of the plastic category, **The Bacchus Sisters** added, who collected over 14,000 plastic bottles, expressed their excitement: "Being part of this competition was a great learning experience. We didn't realize how much waste we were surrounded by until we started collecting, and now we understand the importance of recycling."

A teacher from **Brickdam Secondary School** added, "This initiative has not only engaged our students but has also taught them valuable lessons about responsibility and environmental

stewardship. We're proud of their achievements and grateful for the platform provided by Policy Forum Guyana."

The event also featured a powerful dramatic poem performance titled *Plastikos* by **Rovindra Persaud and Mark Luke Edwards**, which highlighted the urgent need to address plastic pollution. The ceremony concluded with a plaque distribution, photos, and refreshments, allowing participants to mingle and discuss future collaborations for environmental efforts.

In her closing remarks, **Benita Davis** emphasized the project's larger significance: "This competition has demonstrated that Guyanese youths are more than capable of separating their waste effectively. It's something we need to implement nationwide. I call on the **Mayor and City Council**, the **Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs)**, and the **Neighborhood Democratic Councils (NDCs)**, with assistance from the **EPA**, to start systematically addressing the garbage issue in Guyana. The youth have shown us the way—it's time for us to act."

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Each sponsor played a pivotal role in making the event a success, ensuring that the efforts of these remarkable students did not go unrecognized.

Winners of the Waste to Win Competition



Participants with Policy Forum Guyana and Sponsors, Cevons Waste Management, Ansa Mcal Distribution Inc and PBS Technologies



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About Policy Forum Guyana
Policy Forum Guyana (PFG) is a civil society organization committed to fostering environmental sustainability and engaging youth in meaningful actions to protect our planet.

About Cevons Waste Management Inc.
Cevons Waste Management is dedicated to providing innovative waste management solutions in Guyana, with a focus on promoting environmental sustainability through effective waste collection and recycling programs.