



## **Rahway Water Champions Program**

In 2009, EPA Region 2 approached the New Jersey Water Savers Program to participate in a program to engage local high school students in the promotion of WaterSense® and water efficient products. It is through these efforts that the students will be able to gain knowledge, take action, and have fun, while achieving measurable reductions in water consumption. Through the New Jersey Water Savers Program, Water Champions was expanded to include an intense educational component prior to arming the students with a promotional strategy.

Currently, Watershed Ambassador, Steve Hruby, is working with approximately fifteen students from Rahway High School's Social Action Club to develop this program. The group has conducted pre water audits and a pre cost/benefit analysis for one set of highly trafficked restrooms that are slated to be updated in late June. They have also performed calculations for the entire school. American Standard has donated fixtures to update the set of restrooms. Once installed, the students will then do a post audit and present their findings to the Board of Education, American Standard, EPA, NJDEP and more at a public meeting. The student's will be pitching the idea of updating the entire school with the help pf the New Jersey Water Savers program, American Standard and the Board of Education.

The Water Champions Program has the potential to place high school students at the center of the stakeholder-driven learning community. The faculty advisor and students will engage with numerous civic customers to promote increased capacity for behavioral change that will lead to more sustainable uses of water resources. There will be a wide range of locally determined stakeholders, including the students themselves, faculty advisors, citizens, including parents and local businesses, such as WaterSense® promotional partners (e.g. state, county, not-for-profits, utilities, etc.), retailer/distributor partners, manufacturer partners, and other professional partners (e.g., landscaping professionals).