

# Going Green

Sam's Club and SIFE partner to help small businesses improve sustainability.



Katie Van Gieson, Anderson University, presenting at the Sam's Club/SIFE National Environmental Sustainability Challenge in Bentonville, Ark.

**E**nvironmental sustainability is a top priority for Sam's Club and its parent company, Wal-Mart Stores. To support its mission, Sam's Club partnered with SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) on the Sam's Club/SIFE Environmental Sustainability Challenge, an exciting initiative now in its second year.

In the inaugural competition, student teams from colleges around the country created strategies to help educate 53 small businesses about opportunities for going green. Their low-cost, creative solutions helped companies find cost savings in sustainable actions ranging from installing motion-sensor paper towel dispensers to switching to energy efficient bulbs. The top

team, from Anderson University in Anderson, S.C. was recognized along with the second place winner William Jewel University and third-place winner Bethel College at the 2009 SIFE National Expo in Philadelphia.

In this partnership, Sam's Club aims to provide its small business members with sustainability solutions that also help improve their bottom line. By helping others make environmentally sustainable business decisions, the company hopes to advance another important goal: creating economic opportunity. ●

