

April 2017 Newsletter



"I love the Green Team challenges. I do these challenges to teach my students about the importance of taking care of the environment"

- Dana Jouzaitis, West Street School, Southbridge

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

We have not yet received a Teacher Response Form from you for the 2016-2017 school year. We have pushed back the deadline to April 15. Please **submit your [Teacher Response Form](#) by April 15** so we can hear about your experiences and reward your students for their accomplishments!

Please also email photos to recycle@thegreenteam.org to share on [THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) and in upcoming newsletters.

If your school has been collecting textiles for reuse and recycling, don't forget to note this on your Teacher Response Form! Report how many pounds of textiles your school collected to participate in our Textile Recovery Challenge!

School Gardening Resources

If your class or school is interested in learning more about school gardening, be sure to check out the resources below. Don't forget: one of the grand prizes for participating in the GREEN TEAM is a gift certificate to a local garden center, so after you've clicked the links, make sure you've submitted your Teacher Response Form!

- The updated [MassDEP School Composting Resource Package](#) covers a lot of topics, includes how composting fits into the Massachusetts Department of Education Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.
- The Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom [School Garden Manuals/Guides](#) were designed to Massachusetts standards and frameworks, and cover such topics as Gardening in the City, Siting the Garden, and Transplanting.
- The [USDA School Garden Fact Sheet](#) offers information on a variety of topics, including Food Safety in the Garden, Gardens as Classrooms, and Funding Your Garden.
- The Healthy Schools Campaign [ABCs of School Garden Webinar](#) is available on YouTube, and covers how garden-based learning positively impacts students, and how to get started and explore ways school gardens offer hands-on, experiential learning opportunities.

GREEN TEAM in the Spotlight

Students at **Edward Parthum Middle School** in Lawrence are GREENing their school through art. Middle school students are encouraging younger students to be aware of trash by painting garbage cans.



Edward Parthum Middle School students paint trash cans during art class.

At **Rockport Middle and High School** in Rockport, students are learning more about how plants grow and about hydroponic gardening. They planted a beautiful tower garden in the school's new greenhouse.



Rockport Middle and High School Green Team members and their tower garden.

The Green Team at **Anne T. Dunphy School** in Williamsburg participated in the Kids 4 the Earth million letter campaign. They wrote letters to the President expressing their concern for the Earth.



Anne T. Dunphy School's Green Team wearing green to show their support for the environment.

GREEN TEAM in the Media

The [Greenfield Recorder](#) published an article on a visit from Franklin County Solid Waste Management District to set up vermicomposting bins for **Conway Grammar School**. These bins, which use composting worms to break down food scraps, provide a fun activity that can be integrated into the science curriculum. Conway Grammar School is one of 31 schools in Franklin County diverting food from the trash in some major way.

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

Mark your calendars with these grant opportunities, workshops, conferences and more!

April – May - Each year, the [Great Massachusetts Litter Cleanup](#) takes place across the state in the months of April and May. You can sign up to volunteer, or organize a cleanup in your community.

April 4 – [National Healthy Schools Day](#). Whether you are at the beginning stages of investigating school environments or have an established Indoor Air/Environmental Quality program, use this day to host a local activity that educates others and celebrates your school's successes!

April 6 – 7 – The [2017 Farm to Institution Summit](#) in Leominster. This two-day conference, hosted by Farm to Institution New England, is designed for food system players who are working to increase the amount of local and regional food served in schools, colleges, and health care facilities.

April 6 – GREEN TEAM recycling equipment distribution day, West Roxbury, 10:00am.

April 7 – Nomination deadline for [2017 Green Difference Awards](#). These awards, given by Project Green Schools, honor and recognize Outstanding National Environmental Education & STEM Education efforts in Schools & Communities.

April 12 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: Imitating Mother Nature to Improve Chemical Reactions](#), and **“I’d Like to Have an Argument”**: Making Meaning Through Conversation. Final of four full-day sessions.

April 12 – Entry deadline for Evergreen Packaging and KidsGardening.org's 2017 [Carton 2 Garden](#) contest. Contest winners will be selected based on their implementation of an innovative garden creation featuring creative and sustainable uses of repurposed milk and juice cartons

April 12 – [Sea to School Culinary Workshop](#) in Northampton. This series of three seafood culinary workshops will give hands-on experience working with locally-caught, sustainable species. Learn from colleagues at the forefront of the “sea to school” movement, and hear directly from fishermen about their practices and how you can help support local fishing communities.

April 14 – April 23 – [Cambridge Science Festival](#). An annual 10-day celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math in Cambridge and New England and the global impact of those endeavors. The Festival makes science accessible, engaging and fun for everyone through multifaceted, multicultural events.

April 15 – Application deadline for the [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#). This award celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people across North America. Each year, the Barron Prize honors 25 outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment.

April 22 – [Earth Day](#). In 1970, the first year of Earth Day, the movement gave voice to an emerging consciousness, channeling human energy toward environmental issues. The focus of Earth Day this year is environmental and climate literacy.

April 23-29 – [National Environmental Education Week](#), which celebrates the benefits of environmental education and its relevance for people of all ages and all walks of life.

April 28 – [Stop Food Waste Day](#) strives to educate and ignite change regarding the food waste epidemic. The goal is to draw attention to the problem as well as develop and share creative and impactful solutions.

April 29 – [Preschool and Agriculture Workshop – Gardens and More](#). This workshop will cover school gardens, beekeeping, curriculum ideas, and more!

May 10 – [Bike to School Day](#) celebrates the benefits of biking and walking to school. Register your school’s event to be counted among the thousands of schools who participate each year and be entered into drawings for bikes and helmets!

May 15 – Pledge to get your hands dirty on [Plant Something Day](#)! Gardening can beautify your neighborhood, reduce your stress level, cut your home energy costs, and provide pollen or nectar for pollinators.

May 18 – [Massachusetts Envirothon 2017](#) at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. High school students show how

much they know about Massachusetts' soils, forests, water, and wildlife, as well as this year's current issue, agricultural soil and water conservation, at this outdoor field competition. Teams rotate through four "ecostations" where they answer written questions and engage in hands-on activities.

May 18 – [Outdoor Classroom Day](#), a day to celebrate and inspire learning and play outside the classroom. Join schools from across the world in taking at least one class outdoors for one lesson!

May 22-23 – Save the date for the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) [36th Annual Conference & Expo](#) in Manchester, NH, with a School Recycling Conference on May 23.

June 19 – Entry deadline for the [Marine Debris](#) and [Ocean Pollution: Challenges & Solutions](#) student contests. These contests challenge students to design, implement, and assess a creative advocacy project in their school or community.

June 19 - July 2 [Sustainable Development & Social Entrepreneurship](#) session at Yale Young Global Scholars Program. The session is designed for students who are interested in exploring innovative solutions to the greatest challenges facing our species and the planet.

Other Resources

The [Farm to Preschool Fact Sheet](#) provides information about local food and learning in early child care and education settings, but also encompasses all efforts to serve locally- or regionally-produced foods in early child care and education settings.

The [Massachusetts Horticulture Society](#) has several programs for schools, including the Plantmobile (a traveling plant science program) and field trips to The Gardens at Elm Bank.

We wish you a happy Earth Day on April 22!

Emily Fabel

Green Team Program Administrator



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