

## September 2017 Newsletter

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*"We love your program and all the resources you offer! We hope to continue to spread the use of this program in our school community. The children are so innately "green" and they care and inspire us and all their peers to live greener, healthier lives."*

- Ms. Selvi Oyola, Marion E. Zeh Elementary School, Northborough

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

We are excited about the start of the new school year, and the nearly 80 teachers who have already registered for THE GREEN TEAM! If you haven't already done so, [register for the 2017-2018 school year today!](#) (GREEN TEAM registrations do not carry over into the new school year, so remember to register again even if you participated last year.) GREEN TEAM teachers receive [a GREEN TEAM kit](#) full of useful resources and are eligible to win prizes recognizing their students' achievements.

We have [recycling equipment](#) in stock at three locations throughout the state. To request FREE recycling and compost bins, [please register](#) for the 2017-2018 school year and then submit [a recycling equipment request form](#). The Boston area location will have three scheduled distribution dates for the 2017-2018 school year. The first Boston area distribution date is September 22. There will also be distribution dates in November and April.

Equipment distribution from the Amherst and Pittsfield locations is by appointment. Schools requesting recycling equipment will receive more information about scheduling a pick-up once their request is

processed.

### **GREEN TEAM Spotlight, GREEN TEAM in the Media, and GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery**

Throughout the school year, send us photos and stories about the great work you are doing to share in [THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) and [THE GREEN TEAM Spotlight](#)!

If your school is covered in the local media, let us know and we'll add it to [THE GREEN TEAM in the Media](#) page!

Be sure to check out these links for inspiration and ideas!

### **School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development**

The start of the school year is the perfect time to update your calendars with these grant opportunities, deadlines, workshops, conferences and more!

**September 9** - [Keep America Beautiful's National Planting Day](#), a fall initiative of the Great American Cleanup, is a national call to action designed to mobilize Americans to support local ecosystems by planting native species.

**September 13** - The Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) [Listening Session](#) and guided walk along the historic Blackstone Canal in Uxbridge.

**September 22** – Distribution day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. [Register](#) for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2017-2018 school year and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) to request equipment. There will also be distribution dates in November and April.

**September 23** - Project Learning Tree's [Environmental Training](#) in North Easton for PreK-8th grade teachers. The curriculum develops awareness, engages critical thinking skills, and promotes constructive action.

**September 23** - Mass Envirothon's [field workshop for coaches](#) at MassWildlife's Wayne F. MacCallum Wildlife Management Area, Westborough.

**September 24** – [Composting at Home and in School Gardens](#), Mass. Horticultural Society, Wellesley. Learn how to compost at school with students as an educational activity and turn garden and kitchen

scraps into “black gold” for your school gardens with MassDEP and MassHort. Free to Green Team members; call or email Katie Folts at [kfolts@masshort.org](mailto:kfolts@masshort.org).

**September 26** - The Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) [Listening Session](#) and open exploration of The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster.

**September 27** – Green Teacher webinar on [Best Practices in School Gardens](#). Based on several years of research and experience with dozens of school gardens, Mary Dudley (Youth Education Coordinator at the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati in Ohio) and her colleagues will share their list of basic steps and best practices for school gardens.

**September 30** – Deadline for [Project Learning Tree's GreenWorks!](#) Grants applications. Project Learning Tree offers GreenWorks! Grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world.

**September 30** - Application deadline for the [Captain Planet Foundation's](#) grants for environmental projects. These grants are for activities that conform to the mission of the Captain Planet Foundation, and are intended to provide hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities for youth, serve as a catalyst to getting environment-based education in schools, and inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities.

**September 30** - [National Public Lands Day](#). Through the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands, the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) works to connect people to public lands in their community.

**October 1** – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation](#) Grants for grades K-5. Toshiba America Foundation accepts applications from teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students.

**October 5** – The [MA Clean Energy Center's](#) Ninth Annual [Green Careers Conference](#) in Westborough. Delve into clean energy, sustainability, and career development with stakeholders from government, business, education, nonprofits, and career-ready candidates.

**October 17** - [Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association \(MFAA\) Conference](#) in Amherst, which aims to help facilities professionals continue their professional growth with a focus on providing safer, healthier, and more sustainable learning environments for staff and students.

**October 21** - Project Learning Tree's [Early Childhood Experience Training](#) in North Easton for PreK-K

teachers. The curriculum develops awareness, engages critical thinking skills, and promotes constructive action.

**October 21** - [Boston Harbor Educators Conference](#) in Boston, which focuses on the life, science, and history of Boston Harbor and how you can bring this information into your classrooms.

**November 2-3** - [Annual Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\) Conference](#) in Boxborough. On Nov. 3 at 9:15AM, MassDEP's Ann McGovern will present a session on "Worm Composting Indoors & Bin Composting Outdoors."

**November 14** - The Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) [Listening Session](#) at the Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford.

**November 15** - [America Recycles Day](#), a national initiative of Keep America Beautiful. Join a recycling event in your area, or register your own.

#### **Other Resources**

The USDA's [Farm to School Planning Toolkit](#) is a great resource for guiding schools through beginning or expanding a farm to school program. Designed for use by schools, districts, and community partners, the toolkit has tips, examples, insights from others with experience, and lists of resources for further research.

This school year, we look forward to helping you empower students to start recycling and composting programs, learn about energy conservation, and undertake other endeavors to be good stewards of the environment!

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