



The Green Team News

September 2015 Newsletter

*"The Green Team has been a terrific educational program that has increased family awareness about ways to reduce waste and it promotes our mission of stewardship of our natural resources for all generations."
– Diane Thureson, Nature Center Preschool, Norwell*

Dear GREEN TEAM TEACHER,

We are very excited about the start of the new school year! If you haven't already done so, [register your GREEN TEAM for the 2015-2016 school year today!](#) (Registration does not carry over from one year to the next.)

Both new and returning Green Team members are eligible to request free [Recycling/Composting Equipment](#) and [Idling Reduction](#) materials for their schools. If your school wants to start or expand their recycling program, we can also provide assistance in how to make your program successful. Green Team teachers receive a [Green Team Kit](#) full of useful resources and are eligible to win prizes recognizing their students' achievements.

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

The Boston Public School held its first annual [BPS Race to Recycle competition](#) last spring. Participating schools measured the recycling and trash collected at their schools to calculate their school's recycling diversion rate and receive recognition for their recycling efforts.

All of the award-winning schools in this competition were GREEN TEAM members! Congratulations to:

- Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy, Brighton
- Boston Green Academy, Brighton

- Curley K-8, Jamaica Plain
- Edward M. Kennedy Academy, Boston

GREEN TEAM in the Media

Recycling Textiles in Norwood Schools: [Wicked Local Norwood](#) reported that in the 2014-2015 school year, Norwood Public Schools raised more than \$3,100 collecting textiles for recycling through [Bay State Textiles](#). Together, the schools collected 63,000 pounds of textiles. About 45% of the collected textiles are reused, 30% are recycled into wiping cloths, and 20% are used for other products such as seat cushions. GREEN TEAM member, Norwood High School, earned over \$400 from this textile recycling program.

Biomass-Boiler at Ashburnham schools: [The Sentinel & Enterprise](#) reported that Overlook Middle School is installing a biomass-boiler to replace its oil heating system. Overlook received a \$350,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for this new heating system. A similar system, installed two years ago at Briggs Elementary School in Ashburnham, saved the school \$8,000 in heating costs last winter.

School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

This fall is packed with recycling events, competitions and educational opportunities. Mark your calendars!

September 3 (9:00 am) – [Extras for Creative Reuse](#) Tour in Lynn, MA. Extras for Creative Reuse offers recycled materials for art projects and workshops to parents, teachers, and kids at low or no-cost, and takes donations of reusable, recycled and surplus material for redistribution. To RSVP, contact Sharon Kishida at skishida@beverlyma.gov or 978-605-2409.

September 12 (9:00 am) – [Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Experiences Workshop](#) at Mt. Greylock, Lanesborough, MA. This workshop for PreK-K guides educators on how to connect their students to the natural world.

September 17 (1:00-2:30pm) – [How to Donate Surplus Food from K-12 Schools Webinar](#) will show K-12 schools how to improve their bottom line and reduce food waste through donating surplus food from school cafeterias.

September 19 (9:00-1:00pm) – [Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Curriculum](#) Uxbridge, MA. This workshop is an introduction to PLT's hands-on activities.

September 26 – The [Green Apple Day of Service](#) gives parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform their schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects. You can check out [project ideas](#), pick up helpful [event resources](#), read about [last year's impact](#), find an event in your area, and [register your 2015 event](#) today!

September 29 – October 1 – [Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association \(MFFA\) Fall Conference](#) in Hyannis, MA. This event combines the MFFA annual conference with their annual Trade Show/Expo. The conference includes a presentation by a MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator on recycling in schools.

September 30 – [Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Grants application deadline](#). Schools can apply for grants up to \$1,000 for projects that engage students in meaningful service-learning projects.

October 13 – [Recycle-Bowl](#) is a national K-12 recycling competition. [Register](#) by October 13. The competition starts October 19 and runs through November 15.

November 5-6 – [Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\) 2015 Annual Conference](#) in Boxborough, MA. The conference theme, ***Enlightening Learners, Empowering Educators***, explores how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health. MassDEP's Ann McGovern provides a classroom composting session on Nov. 6 at 11:00 am. [Register today!](#)

November 15 – [America Recycles Day](#) is a national initiative of Keep America Beautiful to encourage environmental citizenship. Keep America Beautiful has tools to help you [organize an event](#).

December 31 – [The President's Environmental Youth Award \(PEYA\)](#) honors students and classes for completing projects that promote environmental awareness. Students in grades K-12 are eligible to apply. The Application Deadline is December 31.

The Massachusetts Farm to School Project can [help connect your school to local farms](#) to provide healthy, delicious food to your school cafeteria.

Green Schools offers the [12 Pathways to Greening Your School](#) with learning tools designed for use throughout the school year.

The National Wildlife Federation's [How-To Guide for Schoolyard Habitats](#) offers resources for teaching in an outdoor classroom and creating and gardening to create a wildlife habitat.

We look forward this school year to helping your GREEN TEAM 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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