



"This is such a FANTASTIC program that benefits our students, staff and local community. This is my third year being a Green Squad Faculty Advisor at my Middle School, and your resources give me new and improved ideas each year. Thank you for your very generous materials, and thank you for encouraging teachers to work with our students on these important topics."

- Carol Virzi, Sherwood Middle School, Shrewsbury

Dear GREEN TEAM Teacher,

Last week, we received the two-hundredth GREEN TEAM registration for the 2015-2016 school year. We hope that you will [register for THE GREEN TEAM](#) this school year!

THE GREEN TEAM provides an assortment of resources to help you plan lessons and activities that engage your students with understanding environmental issues. These educational materials are available in [THE GREEN TEAM kits](#) mailed to all participants. Some highlights include:

- The [Slash Trash Lesson](#), which encourages students to track waste disposal at home as they identify and implement new waste reduction activities.
- The [Clean Air Activities](#), which empower students to improve air quality around their schools by creating an Idle-Free Zone. THE GREEN TEAM has [free idling reduction signs and materials](#) available for registered schools!
- The [Climate Change Activities](#), which ask students to identify and track opportunities to conserve energy at home and at school.

For schools considering starting or expanding a food donation program, here are some helpful resources:

- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts recently posted [Food Donation Guidance](#) developed with state and local health agents, the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, and food donation organizations. These guidelines outline the steps for institutions and businesses to safely and effectively donate surplus food.
- The USDA provides specific information on the [donation of leftover food from school cafeterias](#).

- For more information on helping to reduce food waste, visit THE GREEN TEAM [Food Waste Reduction page](#).

If you plan to request [free recycling or composting equipment](#) for pick-up at the West Roxbury distribution point, remember to submit your request by November 6.

GREEN TEAM in the Media

[WickedLocal Melrose](#) reports that Roosevelt Elementary School in Melrose recently received Eco-Schools Bronze certification. This is the third school in Massachusetts to receive this designation, which recognizes the many waste reduction and energy efficiency programs at the school. Roosevelt Elementary has partnered with TerraCycle to recycle many items, such as juice boxes and writing instruments, which are typically difficult to recycle. Fruit and vegetable scraps from the cafeteria are composted and that compost, in turn, feeds the school garden.

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

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

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!](#)

School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

November 5

[Webinar](#) about the [Nature's Voices Project](#), which helps young people share their stories about environmental education experiences.

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 will provide a classroom composting session on Nov. 6 at 11:00 am. [Register today!](#)

November 8-10

The New England Environmental Alliance [Climate of Change Conference](#) in Waterville Valley, NH. [Register here](#).

November 12

Green Team equipment distribution day, West Roxbury, 10:00 am. Submit an [equipment](#)

[request](#) by Nov 6 if you want to pick up equipment on Nov 12.

November 14

[Poster Contest submission deadline](#) for International Compost Awareness Week, sponsored by the US Composting Council.

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](#).

November 19

Entry Deadline for "[Recycling is Bigger than the Bin](#)" Video & Poster Contest for K-12 students.

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.

Other Resources

[Project WILD](#) and [Aquatic WILD](#) are wildlife-focused conservation education programs for K-12 educators and their students.

The [Renewable Energy Consortium for School \(RECS\)](#) helps schools purchase renewable energy. A recent webinar on the program is [available on YouTube](#).

We hope THE GREEN TEAM's resources help with environmental education efforts at your school this school year!

Emily Fabel

Green Team Program Administrator

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