



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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Schools, Classes From Across the Commonwealth Receive 'Green Team' Awards for 2014-15 School Year

Environmental Stewardship Educational Activities Recognized

BOSTON – Students from 64 schools across Massachusetts have received special recognition for their outstanding environmental actions as members of the “Green Team,” a statewide environmental education program promoted by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

Students of any age can participate in the Green Team program, an initiative comprised of students who share the goals of reducing pollution and protecting the environment. Nearly 60,000 students in more than 290 classes at 257 schools joined the Green Team this school year.

“I congratulate all of the students and teachers who took the initiative to raise environmental awareness through Green Team activities,” said EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton. “Through the Green Team Program, EEA hopes to instill in students knowledge of environmental issues and a desire to protect our natural world.”

Green Team students took part in a range of activities, including:

- expanding school recycling programs,
- starting a compost pile using organic waste from the school cafeteria, and using the compost it generates to nourish a garden to grow vegetables,
- making their school driveways “Idle-Free Zones,”
- increasing energy efficiency in their schools and communities, and
- reducing their carbon footprint at school and at home.

These activities incorporated classroom disciplines from the fields of science, engineering and mathematics to reading, writing and art, as well as other non-classroom, inter-related projects.

Participating classes were entered into a drawing for prizes, and 64 classes received prizes for their efforts (*full listing attached*). Nineteen schools won grand prizes, and will receive school-wide performances by environmental educators Jack Golden, Peter O'Malley and Earthtunes, or gift cards to local garden centers for trees or garden supplies.



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

“It’s important to recognize and support these students who bring an incredible amount of energy and drive to the learning process,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. “Equally important, however, we need to thank the teachers, who channel that energy into environmental and innovative creativity in a way that helps these students move forward.”

Participating teachers also received a Green Team Kit containing classroom posters, lesson plans, recycling tips and access to a library of other resources. In addition, 67 schools received recycling equipment from the Green Team to initiate or expand school recycling programs. Thirteen schools received signs reading “Idle-Free Zone” from the Green Team that serve as a visual reminder to drivers to turn off their engines while waiting in the schoolyard.

Hingham High School was recognized with a national Green Ribbon Schools award from the U.S. Dept. of Education for their outstanding environmental achievements. All 1,200 students participate in their school recycling and cafeteria composting program, and organized a school-wide “Teach In” on environmental initiatives. “By any measure, environmental consciousness has been raised to new heights at Hingham High School, as evidenced by the Green Ribbon nomination,” wrote Assistant Principal Richard Swanson. “We can also document a significant reduction in waste, which led this year to the removal of one trash dumpster and its replacement with a single-stream recycling container.” A video about their school’s “Slash the Trash” competition was recently featured on the environmental website “E-Awakenings,” at www.e-awakening.com.

Students at Dr. Paul Nettle Middle School in Haverhill were busy educating their classmates by giving presentations in 25 classrooms in grades 5-8. Teacher Ted Becker has shepherded the Green Team at Nettle for eight years, and this year saw a 50 percent increase in students signing the Green Team pledge.

“One of our science units this year is Climate Change, so the Climate Change Scorecard fit perfectly with science,” noted teacher Becky Acheson of Gates Elementary School in Acton.

First- and second-graders at Swift River Elementary School in Belchertown created recycling signs and posters to educate their classmates. “The students take pride in knowing that we as a class are making a difference in preserving our planet,” reported teacher Cindy Fournier. “They take pride in displaying their posters and telling about our garden.”

Bellingham Memorial Middle School’s Green Team, Community Service Club and Student Council Club held a school-wide drive to collect coats, hats and mittens for the needy. They also have a no-idling zone in front of the school that is strictly enforced. “We have had much success with our coat drive and our recycling program,” reported teacher Linda Cartier. “It has also been very rewarding working with other clubs to bring the students all together as one!”



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

At Berlin Memorial School, the school-wide recycling program is run by the fourth-graders, and the students also helped protect the rain forest and made their school an Idle-Free Zone.

“Environmental education projects are an important part of the curriculum at Berlin Memorial, noted teacher Ann Rossow. “We will continue to do our part to encourage everyone to be environmentally responsible.”

Under the leadership of teacher Ryan Yurchick, students at Briscoe Middle School in Beverly made signs and posters, created a school garden, set up a compost bin and improved the school recycling program. By recycling containers and pouring off liquids, they reduced their waste from 12 bags to one or two bags per day. “Students are benefiting from all of this by becoming more interested in environmental stewardship and learning of ways they can improve the world around them,” stated Mr. Yurchick. “Some students are also taking on great roles of leadership and holding their peers accountable for their actions.”

The Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers in Boston participated in the Boston Public School Recycling Program to recycle paper trays and milk cartons, recycling more every year. Students collected reusable jeans to donate to a shelter in Boston and recycled soda cans and bottles to fund-raise for the school. “I believe that the whole school benefited from our recycling program,” noted long-time Green Team member Angela Cappucci. “It is getting bigger and better with time.”

Students at Bridgewater-Raynham High School conducted a wide range of activities, including wetlands research, recycling, composting, gardening, collected clothing and materials for needy children and held a Green Awareness Day. “Students learn quite a bit about environmental careers, action and health from the Green Awareness Day speakers,” reported teacher Jessica Lazarus. “Typically, students leave worried about the state of the environment and express the hope of looking to make a difference in their own communities.”

At Patrick E. Bowe School in Chicopee, students conducted the Slash Trash report, planted a garden and maintained a compost bin. “The students made a tremendous connection to the outdoors as well as to healthy eating,” reported teacher Harry Brandt.

At Boston Latin Academy, “the kids were astounded by how much trash they personally created every day, and worked on sorting through recycling to make sure they recycled more, properly,” noted teacher Kara Stafford. Students also conducted several energy conservation activities. “They were great jumping off points that reinforced the concepts from the year, and the kids liked being active – physically doing something – in order to gather data,” Ms. Stafford said.

The Brookside Elementary School in Dracut, under the leadership of teacher Denise Porcello, has participated in The Green Team program since its inception in 2003! This year, students did the Climate Change Scorecard, Slash Trash Report, Idling Reduction Pledge and set up a



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

compost bin. “The class is always amazed at how much trash can be saved from landfills with just a few simple steps,” reported Ms. Porcello.

Students at Sizer School in Fitchburg, under the leadership of teacher Anna Cynar, organized a school-wide lunch waste audit for a week. With that data, they presented to the school and to the United Way’s Youth Venture program, a three-part plan to reduce their waste. The students’ plan was approved and they are moving towards implementation. Ms. Cynar noted, “The students have already learned a lot about how composting works, creating budgets and project timelines, creating persuasive presentations, leadership and organization skills.”

Hopedale Memorial School is another long-time Green Team member school, having participated since 2003 under the leadership of teacher Jane LeClaire. Students set up a school recycling program and promoted it by creating signs and posters. “The students are more responsible,” noted Ms. LeClaire. “The Green Team is awesome.”

Statewide, nearly 5,000 students pledged to reduce, reuse, recycle; walk, bike, carpool or take public transportation; and conserve energy and water to help protect the environment. Many of the students encouraged their parents to take an idling-reduction pledge and turn off car engines while parked or waiting. Other students tracked the trash generated in their home for one month, subtracting the amount of trash their family eliminated via recycling. In addition, activities included improving school recycling or composting programs, conserving energy at school, visiting recycling facilities, meeting with municipal officials, planting school gardens, seeking alternatives to Styrofoam lunch trays, building water-powered fuel cell kit cars, and creating signs, posters, videos and web pages to raise environmental awareness in their school community.

All participating classes received Certificates of Recognition, “Trash Terminator” bookmarks or grand prizes such as a show by Jack Golden, entitled “Garbage is My Bag”; a recycling and conservation show by Peter O'Malley; an environmental concert by Earthtunes, or gift cards to a nearby garden center for plants or school gardening supplies. Other Green Team prizes included Green Team wrist bands, biodegradable corn resin and recycled tire key rings, information wheels, “Compost Matters” activity books, and pencils made from recycled denim or currency.

To learn more or to participate in The Green Team program next school year, teachers may sign up online at: www.thegreenteam.org. The Green Team Prize winners are listed in the accompanying document:



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

2014-2015 Green Team Grand Prize Winners				
School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	Green Team Prize
Dallin Elementary School	Arlington	Charlotte Milan & Eileen Coleman	K-5	Garden Supplies
Bellingham Memorial Middle School	Bellingham	Linda Cartier	5-8	Garden Supplies
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School	Bridgewater	Jessica Lazarus	9-12	Garden Supplies
Patrick E. Bowe School	Chicopee	Harry Brandt	1, 3-5	Garden Supplies
Selser Memorial School	Chicopee	Kristin Pisano	K-5	Recycling Show
Sizer School	Fitchburg	Anna Cynar	7-12	Garden Supplies
Hemenway Elementary School	Framingham	Jan Kearns	5	Earthtunes Concert
Hingham High School	Hingham	Richard Swanson	9-12	Garden Supplies
Lillian Jacobs School	Hull	Nicole Palermo Cristaldi	PreK-5	Recycling Show
Mullein Hill Christian Academy	Lakeville	Sharon Cumiskey	PreK-8	Garden Supplies
Bartlett Community Partnership School	Lowell	JoAnne Downing	PreK-8	Garden Supplies
Fowler School	Maynard	Deb Roussell	7	Recycling Show
Greater New Bedford Vocational Tech. High School	New Bedford	Christopher Pires & Lawrence Carlesi	9-12	Garden Supplies
L. G. Nourse Elementary School	Norton	Nancy Grant	1-2	Recycling Show
South Shore Natural Science Center Preschool	Norwell	Diane Thureson	PreK	Recycling Show
Captain Samuel Brown School	Peabody	Diane Bugler	K-5	Earthtunes Concert
Thomas Prince School	Princeton	Corey Burnham-Howard	K-8	Garden Supplies
Lynch Elementary School	Winchester	Fritzie Nace	K-5	Earthtunes Concert
Quinsigamond School	Worcester	Stephanie Syre-Hager	PreK-6	Recycling



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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2014-2015 Green Team Prize Winners				
School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	Green Team Prize
Paul P. Gates, M.D. Elementary School	Acton	Becky Acheson	6	Information Wheels
Stetson School	Barre	Kevin Snyder	9-12	Corn Resin Key Rings
Lt. Job Lane Elementary School	Bedford	Jean Mickle	3-5	Pencils & Wristbands
Swift River Elementary School	Belchertown	Cindy Fournier	1-2	Compost Activity Books
Berlin Memorial School	Berlin	Ann Rossow	3-4	Wristbands
Hannah Elementary School	Beverly	Tanya O'Malley	5	Wristbands
Briscoe Middle School	Beverly	Ryan Yurchick	6-8	Wristbands
Landmark School	Beverly/Prides Crossing	Jennifer Kuhns	11-12	Information Wheels
Marshall Middle School	Billerica	Dawn Press	8	Wristbands
Edward M. Kennedy Academy For Health Careers	Boston	Angela Cappucci	9-12	Wristbands
Charlestown High School	Charlestown	Tom Hayes	10-11	Information Wheels
St. Mary Of The Annunciation School	Danvers	Stacy Drector	PreK-8	Wristbands
Boston Latin Academy	Dorchester	Kara Stafford	12	Wristbands
Brookside Elementary School	Dracut	Denise Porcello	2	Compost Activity Books
Hanover High School	Hanover	Susan Egan	9-12	Wristbands
Harwich Elementary School	Harwich	Anne D'Urso	1	Compost Activity Books
Dr. Paul Nettle Middle School	Haverhill	Ted Becker	8	Wristbands
Hopedale Memorial School	Hopedale	Jane LeClaire	5	Wristbands
Hull High School	Hull	Sheila Blair	9-12	Wristbands
Silver Lake Regional Middle School	Kingston	Tina Moniz	7-8	Wristbands
Alexander B. Bruce School	Lawrence	Joshua Segaloff	7	Wristbands
Leicester High School	Leicester	Joanne Petterson-Bernier	9-12	Wristbands



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Lenox Memorial Middle And High School	Lenox	Nina Marks	6-12	Wristbands
James S. Daley Middle School	Lowell	Michael Bourque	5-8	Wristbands
Manchester Essex Regional School	Manchester	Eric Magers	6-12	Wristbands
H.R. Donaghue School	Merrimac	Susan Simmonds-Jennings	3-6	Information Wheels
The Evergreen Center	Milford	Fatima Diaz	9-12	Wristbands
Northampton High School	Northampton	Ellen Hirschberg	9-12	Wristbands
Montessori School of Northampton	Northampton	Marian Parker	4-6	Wristbands
Marion E. Zeh School	Northborough	Susan Whitten	3-5	Wristbands
Norwell Middle School	Norwell	Christina Bailey	6-8	Recycled Tire Key Rings
Norwood High School	Norwood	Allison Leichtman	9-12	Information Wheels
Allendale Elementary School	Pittsfield	Nancy Gagnon	1	Compost Activity Books
Pittsfield High School	Pittsfield	Dianne Renton	11-12	Recycled Tire Key Rings
Broad Meadows Middle School	Quincy	Kimberly Taglieri	6	Information Wheels
Sherwood Middle School	Shrewsbury	Carol Virzi	5-6	Information Wheels
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School	South Yarmouth	Abir Zaineh	9-12	Information Wheels
The Grow School	Southbridge	Martha Burkett	K-6	Wristbands
Robin Hood Elementary School	Stoneham	Alice Reilly	K-4	Pencils
Joseph G. Luther Elementary School	Swansea	Lindsay Poirier	3	Wristbands
Sheffield Elementary School	Turners Falls	Susan Pelis	2	Compost Activity Books
Greater Lowell Technical High School	Tyngsboro	Rene Dion Jr.	9-12	Recycled Tire Key Rings
Marguerite E. Small Elementary School	West Yarmouth	Audrey Lee	PreK-3	Wristbands
North Middle School	Westfield	Michael Dulaski	7	Wristbands
Williamsburg Elementary School	Williamsburg	Johanna Korpita	2	Wristbands

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