

September 2016 Newsletter

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*"My class was able to see the benefits of helping the Earth.
They learned that even one small change can make a big difference."*

- Melissa Woolfrey, Federal Street School, Greenfield

Dear GREEN TEAM Teacher,

We are excited about the start of the new school year, and the nearly 100 teachers who have already registered for THE GREEN TEAM! If you haven't already done so, [register for the 2016-2017 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.

If you register for THE GREEN TEAM, your school is eligible to request free [Recycling/Composting Equipment](#). We can also provide information and tips to help make your program successful, whether you are starting a new recycling program, expanding an existing program, or diverting a new material such as [wasted food](#) from the school cafeteria.

Programs to reduce idling of school buses and cars can help improve air quality on your school property. By registering for THE GREEN TEAM, you are also eligible to request free [Idling Reduction signs and materials](#).

The Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership (MAAP) is currently conducting a survey to learn about the use of green cleaning products in Massachusetts schools. Green cleaning products can help improve air quality inside your school. Fill out MAAP's short [Purchasing Cleaning Products for Schools survey](#) to share your school's experience with green cleaning products. The survey includes an option to request more information about how green cleaning can help your school.

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!

School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

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

Sept 10 - Keep America Beautiful's [National Planting Day](#).

Sept 15 - Project Learning Tree workshop on [Forest Ecology in Canton](#).

Sept 15 - Nomination deadline for the [2016 Mass Audubon "Conservation Teacher of the Year"](#) award.

Sept 17 - Project Learning Tree workshop on [Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood](#) in Sutton.

Sept 18 - [School Composting in the Garden Workshop](#) led by MassDEP's Ann McGovern and Hannah Traggis of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society in Wellesley. Free to Green Team members!

Sept 21-23 - Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association (MFAA) [Fall 2016 Conference/EXPO](#) in Amherst. MassDEP [Municipal Assistance Coordinators](#) (MACs) will have a booth at the expo.

Sept 22 - Distribution day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. [Register](#) for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2016-2017 school year and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) to request equipment. There will also be distribution dates in November and April.

Sept 24 - [National Public Lands Day](#), sponsored by the National Environmental Education Foundation. All federal parks and many state parks are free on this day of service supporting public lands.

Sept 24 - The [Green Apple Day of Service](#) is an opportunity for schools to transform their community

through local [service projects](#).

Sept 26 - Oct 28 - [Citizen Science for Classroom Teachers](#) online course offered by Brandeis University and the Museum Institute for Teaching Science (MITS). Learn how to engage students in real-world research while aligning your curriculum with the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum framework.

Sept 29 - [2016 Green Careers Conference](#) in Worcester.

Sept 30 - Application deadline for Project Learning Tree [Greenworks! Grant](#). Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for school environmental service-learning projects

Sept 30 - Nomination deadline for 2016 MAST Science Teacher ["Educator of the Year" Awards](#).

Sept 30 - Application deadline for [Captain Planet Foundation](#) grants for environmental projects.

Oct 1 - Massachusetts Marine Educators [Boston Harbor Educators Conference](#) at UMass Boston.

Oct 1 - Massachusetts Envirothon [Field Workshop for Coaches](#) in Westborough.

Oct 6 - Application deadline for 2016 [STEM Equipment Supplies Grant Program](#).

Oct 20 - [Massachusetts Science Education Leadership Association \(MSELA\) Conference](#), "Building Capacity, Shaping the Future," in Marlborough.

Oct 20 - [Massachusetts Project Lead The Way Conference](#) at WPI in Worcester.

Nov 3-4 - [Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\) Conference](#) in Boxborough. MassDEP will lead the workshop on composting with worms.

Nov 4 - [Massachusetts Farm & Sea to School Conference](#) in Leominster. MassDEP will lead a workshop about the MassDEP food waste disposal ban and zero waste cafeteria programs.

Nov 18 - [FIRST Women in Science & Technology Forum](#) for High School Students at UNH Manchester.

Nov 21 - [America Recycles Day](#) sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Explore event ideas, register your recycling event or access free recycling materials.

Other Resources

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released an [indoor air quality \(IAQ\) assessment app](#) to help schools conduct walkthrough assessments of their IAQ. This [free app](#) helps identify and prioritize issues such as ventilation, cleaning, and integrated pest management to improve IAQ in schools.

The USDA has a new booklet for schools on [What You Can Do To Help Prevent Wasted Food](#). This free resource includes tips for nutrition professionals, teachers, administrators, parents, and students on how to reduce wasted food in schools.

We look forward this school year 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!

Emily Fabel
Green Team Program Administrator



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Contact Us:

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 290
Fax: (413) 586-7351
Email: recycle@thegreenteam.org

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