

December 2016 Newsletter

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"We are fully committed to the investment in supporting our community and environment so that future generations can continue to play and live outdoors with family and friends and as much clean air, water and life systems in place to continue our existing way of life."

-Jessica Lazarus, Bridgewater - Raynham Regional High School, Bridgewater

Season's Greetings GREEN TEAM Teachers!

[GREEN TEAM participants](#) across Massachusetts are busy building compost bins, setting up idle reduction zones, expanding their recycling programs, and much more! We hope you will [register for THE GREEN TEAM](#) this school year! Registered schools have access to [free recycling and compost equipment](#), [free idling reduction signs and materials](#), and can receive prizes and recognition for their efforts!

If you are looking for a green way for your school to celebrate the holiday season, consider reuse as a theme. There are a number of donation programs that can help deliver unwanted items from your school community to people who need them:

- Register to be a [Coats for Kids](#) collection site. Anton's Cleaners collects, cleans, and distributes over 60,000 coats each year.
- Host a [Cradles to Crayons Drive](#) and collect items like children's clothing, sneakers, & baby books. Cradles to Crayons partners with social service organizations to help these resources to children ages 0 to 12.
- Collect textiles! Site a [Bay State Textiles Collection Box](#) or [Recycle That Collection Box](#) in your parking lot, or organize a [Bag2School](#) collection. All of these programs help your school raise money in exchange for the textiles you collect.

If collecting textiles, you can participate in the GREEN TEAM Textile Recovery Challenge! Report how many pounds of textiles your school collects on your [Teacher Response Form](#). The goal of this challenge is to raise awareness about how most textiles can be donated – even those lone socks and stained t-shirts. Textiles that cannot be reused are recycled into other products, such as stuffing for car seats and industrial rags.

To learn more about textile recovery, visit:

- The [MassDEP Textile Recovery](#) page for textile recovery facts sheets, resources in your community, and other information.
- The Secondary Materials & Recycling Textiles Trade Association's page, [Wear It? Recycle It!](#), for lesson plans and other materials for teaching about textile recovery.

We look forward to hearing about your success at collecting textiles when you submit your [Teacher Response Form](#) in March!

GREEN TEAM in the Spotlight



Students at **Mt. Alvernia Academy** in Chestnut Hill display their recycling bins. This recycling equipment was provided by THE GREEN TEAM. Request recycling bins by submitting a [Recycling Equipment Application](#).

GREEN TEAM in the Media

[The Greenfield Recorder](#) reports that **Federal Street School** has become the latest school in the Greenfield School Department to begin a wasted food composting program. The school is now collecting wasted food, liquids, and paper, to be sent to nearby Martin's Farm for composting. At the end of a single day of lunch periods, the composting bins had collected 81 pounds of material, which was 91 percent of the waste from lunch!

[The Greenfield Recorder](#) also reported on **The Discovery School at Four Corners'** vermicomposting efforts, with worms provided by THE GREEN TEAM. Kate Bailey's first grade class is not only turning food scraps into valuable compost, but also learning about the processes and worms that help get this done.

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

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

Dec 2 - Application deadline for [Mass Clean Energy Center Clean Energy Day Program](#). This program funds a clean energy activity day for elementary and middle school students.

Dec 8 – Application deadline for [USDA Farm to School grant](#). Schools and school districts can apply for planning or implementation grants to start or expand a farm to school program.

Dec 8 – The [Massachusetts Energy Education Workshop](#) in Boston offers NEED curriculum kits to participating teachers, as well as networking opportunities and information on teaching energy and energy efficiency in the classroom.

Dec 8 - [Keep on Growing: Garden Ideas for Indoors](#) webinar on indoor gardening during the winter, including propagating plants, creating and caring for terrariums, and seed starting under lights.

Jan 20 – [Roots and Shoots Mini-Grant](#) deadline. Educators are invited to apply for a mini-grant to start, support, or celebrate the service campaigns of their schools or students.

Jan 25 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: Engineering Goes Underwater, and Bringing You Up to Speed on the Practice of Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking](#). First of four full-day sessions at Clark University in Worcester. These sessions explore STEM content areas in the morning and skill-based hands-on activities in the afternoon. Register for any number of the four sessions: Jan 25, Feb 16, Mar 16, and April 12.

Jan 31 – Application deadline for [Captain Planet Foundation Small Grants](#). Grants up to \$2,500 are available to help support environment-focused, project-based activities performed by young people.

Feb 3 – Registration deadline for [BioenergizeME Infographic Challenge](#). Encourages high school student teams to research cross-curricular bioenergy topics and design infographics to share what they have learned through various social media channels.

Feb 16 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: An Unexpected Path to the Antarctic, and Communicating About Climate Change: An Interdisciplinary Challenge](#). Second of four full-day sessions.

Feb 20 OR Feb 22 – New England Aquarium [Climate Science for Educators Workshop](#) in Boston. Two sessions are being offered for this workshop, which will examine the use and distribution of natural resources, effect humans have on the climate, current and future natural disasters, and the ways humans are developing solutions to climate change.

Feb 23 – Submission deadline for [World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest](#). Students must create a short video about human population growth that highlights a global challenge.

Mar 1 – Application Deadline for the [President's Environmental Youth Award](#). The award recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 students, as well as promoting awareness of the nation's natural resources and encouraging community involvement.

Mar 16 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: Alien Solar Eclipses: The Importance of Modeling in the Search for Exoplanets, and Sunny With a Chance of Simulations](#). Third of four full-day sessions.

April 12 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: Imitating Mother Nature to Improve Chemical Reactions, and "I'd Like to Have an Argument": Making Meaning Through Conversation](#). Final of four full-day sessions.

Other Resources

The Huffington Post recently published an article about ['Smarter Strategies' for reducing food waste at schools](#).

The Watts-Ville K-3 [Interactive Energy Efficiency Program](#) is an interactive life-size board game that teaches about energy efficiency and the importance of saving energy, is available to schools in Eversource territory.

Check out the New England Aquarium [programs and resources for schools](#), including information on aquarium field trips, traveling education, and programs specifically geared for teens.

Best wishes for Happy Holidays and a very happy New Year!

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