

August 2017 Newsletter

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"At our school, the 'Green Beans' are the center for making our school GREEN. We have held contests, won contests, recycled, reused old materials, and drastically reduced the amount of waste that leaves our school. We have inspired the local high school into participating in composting, and our school will continue to develop a stronger composting program."

-Mary Stucklen, Monument Valley Middle School, Great Barrington

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Summer is flying by and we are busy preparing for another exciting school year. GREEN TEAM kits will be mailed in September, but [GREEN TEAM registration for the 2017-2018 school year is now open!](#) GREEN TEAM registrations do not carry over into the new school year, so remember to register again even if you participated last year!

We have [recycling equipment](#) in stock at three locations throughout the state. To request FREE recycling and compost bins, [please register](#) for the 2017-2018 school year and then submit a [recycling equipment request form](#). The Boston area location will have three scheduled distribution dates for the 2017-2018 school year. The first Boston area distribution date is September 22. There will also be distribution dates in November and April.



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](#).

Equipment distribution from the Amherst and Pittsfield locations are by appointment. Schools requesting recycling equipment will receive more information about scheduling a pick-up once their request is processed.

[Extras for Creative Reuse](#) in Peabody is closing before the end of August. While there are materials left, items will still be available for both members and non-members. Stop by Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10am – 3pm, to stock up on supplies and say goodbye before they close.

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Six schools enjoyed Green Team prize performances from three edutainers: Peter O'Malley, Earth Tunes, and Jack Golden.

Amanda Miraldi of East Boston Early Education Center reported that Peter O'Malley “was engaging and funny. He was able to balance child-friendly examples about recycling and real information.”

The Earth Tunes concert was well received. Meghan Correll of Ambrose Elementary School in Winchester comments, “Barbara and Steve were fantastic and engaging. The kids were happy and engaged. Thank you!”

Jack Golden's *Garbage is My Bag* performance was described by Johanna Korpita of the Anne T. Dunphy School in Williamsburg as, "Absolutely perfect for all the kids. They loved it and they got his message." A Green Team member since its inception in 2002, Johanna Korpita is retiring from teaching, but the environmental stewardship she instilled will continue on with her students and colleagues. Thank you, Johanna!

GREEN TEAM in the Media

A recent Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NNRA) [press release](#) recognized **Andover Green Schools** for their outstanding work in developing district-wide recycling and food recovery programs.

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

Be sure to also check out the great photos and stories at thegreenteam.org. 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!](#)

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

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

August 1 - Registration opens for [Recycle-Bowl](#), which invigorates student participation in recycling through a national K-12 competition, and [America Recycles Day](#). America Recycles Day is November 15.

August 4 - [An Apple for the Teacher Workshop](#). This workshop helps teachers focus on adding agriculture to the classroom, including orchard management, lessons about fruit trees, hands-on apple activities appropriate for many grade levels, and lessons correlated with standards in science, math, health, and reading/language arts.

August 20 - [Back to School Gardens workshop](#) for educators at the Massachusetts Horticulture Society in Wellesley. Get a jump start on your school garden! Topics include direct sowing and transplanting of seedlings, selecting crops to plant in the fall, mulching, weeding, and season extension. Take home several seedlings, ready to plant on the first day of school!

August 23 - [Summer Institute for Teachers at Harvard Forest](#). The Harvard Forest offers a forest ecology training institute for teachers of grades 2-12 to learn how to implement field studies of local ecosystems in their schoolyards. This day's projects are [Woolly Bully and the Hemlock Trees](#) and [Buds, Leaves, and Global Warming](#).

August 23-24 - [Summer Institute for Teachers at Harvard Forest](#). The Harvard Forest offers a forest ecology training institute for teachers of grades 2-12 to learn how to implement field studies of local ecosystems in their schoolyards. This two-day project is [Our Changing Forests](#).

August 24 - Project Learning Tree's [K-8 Curriculum](#) at the Quabbin Reservoir Conference Center in Belchertown. This workshop is an introduction to nearly 100 hands-on activities across a variety of subjects.

August 24 – EPA's webinar [The ABC's of K-12 Food Waste Reduction: Start with the Guide to Conducting Student Food Waste Audits](#) discusses the value of waste audits to decrease the amount of wasted food in schools.

August 31 - Deadline for the [BEE the Change Summer Pollinator Garden Giveaway](#). Anyone who wants to teach kids about pollinators through gardening is eligible to win. The grand prize is a pollinator garden of up to 80 plants, and an additional 30 winners will receive a '10-plant collection' selected specifically for their region.

September 1 - Deadline for [Mass Agriculture in the Classroom](#) Mini-Grant Applications. Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom (MAC) awards mini-grants to Massachusetts educators for agricultural education projects.

September 1 - Nomination deadline for the 2017 Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers [Educator of the Year Awards](#). Nominees should have been involved in science education in Massachusetts for a minimum of twenty years, and have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of education in the sciences and/or science teaching in Massachusetts.

September 9 - Project Learning Tree's [Early Childhood Experience Module](#) training in Canton for PreK-K teachers. The curriculum develops awareness, engages critical thinking skills, and promotes constructive action.

September 9 - [Keep America Beautiful's National Planting Day](#), a fall initiative of the Great American Cleanup, is a national call to action designed to mobilize Americans to support local ecosystems by planting native species.

September 22 – Distribution day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. [Register](#) for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2017-2018 school year and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) to request equipment. There will also be distribution dates in November and April.

September 24 – [Composting at Home and in School Gardens](#), Mass. Horticultural Society, Wellesley. Learn how to compost at school with students as an educational activity and turn garden and kitchen scraps into “black gold” for your school gardens. Free to Green Team members; call or email Katie Folts at kfolts@masshort.org.

September 27 – Green Teacher Webinar on [Best Practices in School Gardens](#). Based on several years of research and experience with dozens of school gardens, Mary Dudley, Youth Education Coordinator at the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati in Ohio, and her colleagues, will share their list of basic steps and best practices for school gardens.

September 30 – Deadline for [Project Learning Tree's GreenWorks!](#) Grants applications. Project Learning Tree offers GreenWorks! Grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world.

September 30 - Application deadline for the [Captain Planet Foundation](#)'s grants for environmental projects. These grants are for activities that conform to the mission of the Captain Planet Foundation, and are intended to provide hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities for youth, serve as a catalyst to getting environment-based education in schools, and inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities.

October 1 – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation](#) Grants for grades K-5. Toshiba America Foundation accepts applications from teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students.

October 5 – The Ninth Annual [Green Careers Conference](#) in Westborough.

Other Resources

The Food and Nutrition Service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture has [Offer versus Serve Guidance](#) (OvS) for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. OvS allows students to decline some offered foods to help reduce wasted food.

The University of Arkansas Food Recovery Project produced guidance for [Share Tables](#) to reduce food waste in K-12 food service programs. The document includes best management practices for starting a share table, as well as food safety, reimbursement, and donation guidelines. Share Tables allow children to return whole and/or unopened items that they choose not to eat. These items are made available to other children.

It's not too early to [request recycling and composting equipment](#) or [Idling Reduction signs and materials](#) for the 2017-2018 school year!

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