

July 2017 Newsletter

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"The CHS Green Team is tremendously appreciative of getting additional composting bins on such short notice and to date, we have been able to compost in excess of 1,400 pounds of food waste in the 5 bins we have operating. The students that are helping out with the composting are doing so voluntarily and a positive 'buzz' circulates the high school lunches regarding their efforts. None of this would have been possible without the assistance of the Green Team! Thank you."

- Peter Afanasiw, Cohasset High School, Cohasset

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Now that it's summer, there is more time to reflect on the past school year.

We have posted the full list of [GREEN TEAM activities at schools](#) across the state in the 2016-2017 school year. Take a look to gather ideas for next year!

The MassDEP issued a [press release about the 2016-2017 GREEN TEAM prize winners](#). This press release prompted stories in many local papers about GREEN TEAM participants, highlighted in the GREEN TEAM *In the Media* section below. Please send us links to media coverage your school receives so we can share these too!

[Registration for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2017-2018 school year is now open!](#) (Don't forget, your

registration from last year does not carry over into the new school year.)

The GREEN TEAM recently posted [a new table](#) aligning GREEN TEAM activities with the 2016 Draft Mathematics Curriculum Framework. Several GREEN TEAM lessons and activities align with these standards, including:

- Slash Trash
- Waste-Free Day
- Set up School Recycling Program
- Rummage Sale/Drive Collecting Recyclables
- Climate Change Scorecard
- Create Signs and Posters

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Warwick Community School set up two new garden compost bins, repaired the outdoor lunchroom food compost bin, and will be comparing and contrasting the effectiveness of each bin to evaluate which system is better. They report that the benefits from this activity include learning about decomposers, reducing school-based waste, and learning about worm anatomy and reproduction.



Students at Warwick Community School tear up newspapers to add to their worm bins.

All nine public schools in **Arlington** participated in a Textile Recovery Challenge competition between March and April to see who could collect the most textiles. They collected hundreds of bags of textiles among them!



Students at Peirce School in Arlington pose with the last load of collected textiles that was set to be delivered for donation or recycling.

Mount Alvernia Academy enjoyed being part of The Green Team. The students learned valuable lessons throughout the school year. They were dedicated to the protection of the environment.



Students at Mount Alvernia Academy in Chestnut Hill proudly display their Green Team Certificate.

Arlington Middle School's ActiGators in Lawrence created a fantastic Green Team Video series:

- [Recycling dos and don'ts](#)
- [Field trip to E.L. Harvey & Sons](#) recycling facility in Westborough
- [Green goals](#) from the from the Great Green Genie

GREEN TEAM in the Media

[Wicked Local Wellesley](#) reports that **Bates Elementary School** in Wellesley won three different awards in May. The 5th Grade recycling team, Principal Toni Jolley, and custodian Al Martignetti won third place in the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education, as well as an Honorable Mention Award from the Green Up New England Challenge. At the 2017 Green Difference Awards, Wellesley's Food Service Director, Matt Delaney, received the Outstanding Green Community Hero award.

The Greenfield Recorder [published an article](#) about five Franklin County schools (**Greenfield High School, Federal Street School, Math and Science Academy, Bernardston Elementary School, and Hawlemont Regional School**) earning their Green Team awards and being recognized by the MassDEP.

[Masslive](#) reported on students at **Fausey Elementary School** in West Springfield being honored by

Massachusetts state officials for 'outstanding environmental actions'.

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

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

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

July 10–13 – [CELFF's Annual Summer Institute](#) on Education for Sustainability. This program is an intensive 4-day workshop that enables teachers to integrate the concepts of sustainability into their existing curricula.

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](#).

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 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.

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.

Other Resources

The Oakland Unified School District and nonprofit organization Food Shift teamed up to explore solutions for wasted food at the K-12 school level, and produced a [School Food Donation Guide](#).

We look forward to your return for the 2017-2018 school year. [It's never too early to register!](#)

In the meantime, have a lovely summer vacation!

Emily Fabel

Green Team Program Administrator

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