

October 2017 Newsletter



Presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

"I am so happy we have access to this program. It involves the whole school and teaches our students that they can make a difference and contribute to society in a meaningful, positive way."

- Ms. Amanda Miraldi, East Boston Early Education Center, East Boston

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Welcome to the more than [150 teachers](#) who have already registered for THE GREEN TEAM this school year! We are in the process of assembling GREEN TEAM kits. You should receive your kit next week. Now that you are registered, you can request FREE [recycling and composting equipment](#) and [idling reduction signs and materials](#) for your school!

Curriculum Frameworks: We recently updated the documents aligning GREEN TEAM lesson plans with the current Mass DESE curriculum frameworks for [Mathematics](#), [English Language Arts](#) and [Science and Technology/Engineering](#) to make it easier for you to use GREEN TEAM activities to cover DESE's learning standards. We hope this is a helpful resource for you!

Reused School Equipment: [Re-Stream](#), a green business logistics company headquartered in Waltham, MA, often has supplies of recycling bins, desks, or other excess office supplies they would like to donate to schools. Please contact John Fantasia at (781) 899-0059 to find out what is currently available.

What's Your Massachusetts Park Story? [The Environmental League of Massachusetts](#) is launching a campaign to learn what people love about Massachusetts state parks, and will spotlight selected stories each week and give away free park passes to lucky participants!

GREEN TEAM in the Media

[Wicked Local Malden](#) profiled North Shore schools, including Salemwood School and Beebe School, that worked with Bay State Textiles to collect and recycle used clothing. As of last week, the program has made over \$5,000 to benefit schools in the city of Malden. Contact [Bay State Textiles](#) to start a textile recovery program at your school.

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!

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

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 fall calendars with these grant opportunities, deadlines, workshops, conferences and more!

October 4 - International [Walk to School Day](#). [Register](#) to join the over 180 [schools in Massachusetts](#) participating this year.

October 5 – The Ninth Annual Massachusetts [Green Careers Conference](#) in Westborough. Delve into clean energy, sustainability, and career development for a day. Enjoy cross-sector dialogues with stakeholders from government, business, education, nonprofits, and career-ready candidates.

October 17-19 - [Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association \(MFAA\) Conference](#) in Hyannis, which aims to help facilities professionals continue their professional growth with a focus on providing

safer, healthier, and sustainable learning environments for staff and students.

October 21 - Project Learning Tree's [Early Childhood Experience Training](#) in North Easton for PreK-K teachers. The curriculum develops awareness, engages critical thinking skills, and promotes constructive action.

October 21 - [Boston Harbor Educators Conference](#) in Boston, which focuses on the life, science, and history of Boston Harbor and how you can bring this information into your classrooms.

October 21 - Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom's Dairy Workshop - [Cows and Robots: Do they work together?](#) at Great Brook Farm in Carlisle. This workshop will look at the economics of dairy farming in Massachusetts, including asking if there are innovative ways to improve efficiency and how this topic can be added to the curriculum.

October 24 - [Food Day](#): A day to resolve to make changes in our own diets and to take action to solve food-related problems in communities at the local, state, and national level. This annual event promotes food that is healthy, affordable, and produced with care for the environment, farm animals, and the people who grow, harvest, and serve it.

October 26 - [Farm to School Awareness Day](#) at the Massachusetts State House, a day to connect with legislators and celebrate agriculture in Massachusetts.

November 2-3 - [Annual Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\) Conference](#) in Boxborough. The conference theme is Spotlight on Science, including Climate Change Education, New Teacher Resources, Student Misconceptions, Technology Resources and Dynamic Classrooms. Join MassDEP's Ann McGovern for a hands-on school composting session on Nov. 3 at 9:15 am. [Register today!](#)

November 6 – Submission deadline for the [International Compost Awareness Week Poster Competition](#). The contest is open to anyone who wishes to share their artistic creativity to promote this year's theme: Compost! Building a Better Future.

November 14 - The Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) [Listening Session](#) at the Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford. MEES has set up regional meetings throughout Massachusetts to bring the environmental education community together, giving MEES an opportunity to learn how it can better support you!

November 15 - [America Recycles Day](#), a national initiative of Keep America Beautiful. Join a recycling

event in your area, or register your own.

November 15 – Application deadline for the [Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant](#), which provides a \$2,000 monetary grant to support a new or existing edible garden at either a school or non-profit.

December 8 - Application deadline for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's [Clean Energy Activity Day Program](#). This program funds a special day dedicated to clean energy activities for elementary and middle school students.

Other Resources

The EPA's [Soak Up the Rain](#) stormwater campaign raises awareness about polluted stormwater runoff and inspires people to take action to help reduce runoff and its destructive environmental impact.

The National Park Service is again offering [free park passes for 4th graders!](#) These passes offer free access to national parks, forests, and wild refuges for the entire 2017-2018 school year

Thanks for joining THE GREEN TEAM this school year!

Emily Fabel
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