



The Green Team News

October 2015 Newsletter

“Our students and teachers have benefited greatly from having a recycling program. The level of awareness for using our resources wisely is gradually increasing. Our students are proud to carry the recycling bins each week to the collection center.”
- Betsy Kriebel, Lowell Community Public Charter School

Dear GREEN TEAM TEACHER,

Welcome to the more than 160 teachers who have already registered for THE GREEN TEAM this school year! We are in the process of mailing GREEN TEAM kits. If you haven't yet received your kit, it should be in the mail next week.

If you are registered for THE GREEN TEAM, you can request FREE [recycling and composting equipment](#) and [idling reduction signs and materials](#) for your school!

Is your school hoping to start or expand a recycling or food waste collection program? THE GREEN TEAM has two new resources to help:

- [THE GREEN TEAM Guide to Starting a School Recycling Program](#)
- [THE GREEN TEAM Food Waste Diversion Guide for Schools](#)

These resources and many more are available on [THE GREEN TEAM Library & Curricula page](#).

Not yet registered this school year? [Register here!](#)

GREEN TEAM Spotlight & GREEN TEAM in the Media

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

Don't miss this fantastic array of conferences, workshops and events!

October 7 – [International Walk to School Day](#) is a global event with participants in more than 40 countries. [Register](#) your school. Last year, 282 [Massachusetts schools](#) participated.

October 7 – Nomination Deadline for [2015 MAST Awards](#). MAST Awards recognize exemplary science educators in Massachusetts. Award winners will be recognized at the MAST Conference November 4-6 (see below for more info).

October 8 – EPA [Air Quality Flag Program](#) webinar. The Flag Program alerts your community about the local air quality. [Register your school](#) to participate.

October 13 – [Recycle-Bowl](#) is a national K-12 recycling competition. [Register](#) by October 13. The competition starts October 19 and runs through November 15.

October 14 – [People's Climate Movement National Day of Action](#). Events include a [Climate Teach-In](#) in Boston organized by teachers.

October 21 – The [Project Lead the Way STEM Conference](#) at Worcester Polytechnic Institute provides educators with an opportunity to learn about the PLTW K-12 STEM curriculum. [Register by October 13](#).

October 21 – Learn about nature's calendar in the Mass Audubon [Fall into Phenology](#) workshop at the North River Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield.

October 23 – [Massachusetts Science Education Leadership Association \(MSELA\) Conference](#) in Marlborough, MA.

October 23-24 – The 11th annual [Connecting for Change Conference](#) in New Bedford includes sessions on a range of environmental topics and extensive [youth programming](#). [Register here](#).

October 27-28 – The [School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts Fall Conference](#) in Worcester. The conference includes a presentation by Sheila Parisien on recycling and composting in the Manchester-Essex Regional School District.

November 5-6 – [Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\) 2015 Annual Conference](#) in Boxborough, MA. The conference theme, ***Enlightening Learners, Empowering Educators***, explores how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health. MassDEP's Ann McGovern provides a classroom composting session on November 6 at 11:00 am. [Register today!](#)

November 8-10 – The New England Environmental Alliance [Climate of Change Conference](#) in Waterville Valley, NH. [Register here.](#)

November 12 – Green Team equipment distribution day, West Roxbury, 10:00 am. Submit an [equipment request](#) by **November 6** if you want to pick up equipment on November 12.

November 14 – [Poster Contest submission deadline](#) for International Compost Awareness Week, sponsored by the US Composting Council.

November 15 – [America Recycles Day](#) is a national initiative of Keep America Beautiful to encourage environmental citizenship. Keep America Beautiful has tools to help you [organize an event](#).

December 19 – Entry Deadline for ["Recycling is Bigger than the Bin"](#) Video & Poster Contest for K-12 students.

December 31 – [The President's Environmental Youth Award \(PEYA\)](#) honors students and classes for completing projects that promote environmental awareness. Students in grades K-12 are eligible to apply. The Application Deadline is December 31.

Other Resources

The National Park Service is offering [free park passes for 4th graders!](#) These passes offer free access to national parks, forests, and wild refuges for the entire 2015-2016 school year.

NPR recently reported that [short school lunch periods cause kids to eat less and throw away more](#). The study, by the Harvard School of Public Health, looked at 1,000 Massachusetts students in grades 3 to 8. They found that kids with less than 20 minutes to eat miss out on valuable nutrition and contribute to increased food waste.

The First Lego League [2015 TRASH TREK Challenge](#) is underway! This challenge includes both a Project (design an innovative solution to a trash problem), and a Robot Game (build Lego robots that sort and transport trash).

Thanks for joining THE GREEN TEAM this school year!

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