



We held our annual Cradles to Crayons gently used and new kids clothing collection drive and did very well collecting lots of materials for needy children ... Students in the environmental club feel good to support the needy and hear that 200 coats were donated to children in need.

- Jessica Lazarus, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School

Season's Greetings GREEN TEAM Teachers!

GREEN TEAM participants across Massachusetts are busy building compost bins, setting up idle free 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, and baby books. Cradles to Crayons partners with social service organizations to help deliver these resources to children ages 0 to 12.
- Collect textiles! Site a [Baystate 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.

THE GREEN TEAM in the Media

[MetroWest Daily News](#) reports that Ashland High School received compost bins for use by the school's new environmental and sustainability club. Ashland Energy Manager, Phillip Williams,

requested these bins through THE GREEN TEAM. Extra bins will be distributed to other schools in the district.

If your school is registered for THE GREEN TEAM, you can request [free recycling and composting equipment](#). About 40 Massachusetts schools have already received equipment this school year.

THE GREEN TEAM Spotlight

The Leroy Wood Elementary School Green Team Garden Club in Fairhaven has been busy! Created by Kimberly Katz and Martha Plummer, this club has had 68 students and 20 parent volunteers sign up. They have planted bulbs around the school building and installed new garden beds which they will plant in the spring. They were also able get funding through [DonorsChoose.org](#) for a new greenhouse. Throughout the winter they plan to explore plants, recycling, and composting. On December 10th, the club will plant a “PEACE” tree and decorate it with bird seed ornaments and cranberry garland.

“We are looking forward to a year of fun as the Green Team Garden Club!” – Kimberly Katz

Wood School Garden Club plants bulbs around building

The Wood School Green Team Garden Club planted more than 525 bulbs on Thursday, 10/29, around the school building. The club has 67 students and 20 parent volunteers.

The group planted tulips, daffodils

and irises, all perennials that will come up on their own every spring.

“I get to dig holes,” said Kaylin, explaining why she had fun helping. “So in the spring we’ll have nice flowers.”

Mark said he helped plant about 10

bulbs and enjoyed being able to hang around with his friends, and also making new friends.

He said he is sure he will remember which flowers he planted when they come up in the spring.



LEFT: Group shot of the Wood School students and adults of the Green Team Garden Club who planted more than 525 bulbs on Thursday, 10/29. Photo by Beth David. RIGHT: The students spread out along the building to plant bulbs under the direction of adult volunteers. Photo courtesy of Noelle Aubin.

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

The Fairhaven Neighborhood News printed a story about the Leroy Wood Elementary School Green Team Garden Club planting bulbs this fall.

School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

Plan ahead for these competitions and workshops!

December 3

The [Massachusetts Energy Workshop](#) in Boston is a free workshop for 4th-12th grade Science, Math and CTE teachers. Sponsored by the [NEED Project](#), this workshop provides educational materials and tools for teaching about energy use and its impacts on the environment.

December 4

Due date for event and program proposals for the [Cambridge Science Festival](#).

December 18

Entry Deadline for [“Recycling is Bigger than the Bin”](#) Video & Poster Contest for K-12 students.

December 31

Application deadline for [The President’s Environmental Youth Award](#) (PEYA), which honors students and classes for completing projects that promote environmental awareness. Students in grades K-12 are eligible to apply.

January 4

Application Deadline for the [Green Ribbon Schools Award](#), which recognizes schools that are exemplary in their environmental impacts and sustainability education programs.

January 7

[Green Ed in The Aisles: Developing Environmental Education Projects at Grocery Stores](#) in North Chelmsford. This EPA workshop for Middle and High Schools explores how to develop “real world” environmental education projects by partnering with local grocery stores. The workshop will review a store’s environmental activities (including energy efficiency, recycling, and minimization of wasted food), tour a local grocery store, and discuss educational projects that schools can test at their local grocery stores.

February 19

Registration deadline for [The Eversource Challenge](#). Open to students in grades K-12 in the Eversource service area, this program teaches students about energy efficiency through grade-specific challenges.

April 15-24

The 10th Annual [Cambridge Science Festival](#) offers 10 days of events and activities that celebrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). **Submit event or program proposals by December 4.**

May 12

The [2016 Massachusetts Envirothon Competition](#) in Hopkinton.

Other Resources

The Hampshire Council of Governments offers two programs that can help schools reduce energy costs. Schools that join a community shared solar program by signing up for [Hampshire Solar](#) can save 15% on electric bills. [Hampshire Power](#) offers fixed rates on energy costs tailored to meet your school’s needs. To learn more, contact Jennifer Engelson at jengelson@hampshirecog.org, 413-584-1300 x153.

The [Cut the Red Tape! Project](#) is helping schools act on climate change through signing a declaration to take specific action to accelerate environmental stewardship.

Harvard's [Center for Health and the Global Environment K-12 Education Program](#) offers teaching tools such as articles, lesson plans, and activities that situate environmental education within a global perspective.

Best wishes for a very happy New Year!

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Green Team Program Administrator

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