



*"Students are amazed at how they have created a big change
in our school's way of doing things by their actions.
They have seen that with small changes they made,
others have followed their lead."*

- Diane Bugler, Captain Samuel Brown School, Peabody

Happy New Year GREEN TEAM Teachers!

We hope your students are taking action to help the environment as we kick off 2016! Keep note of your students' efforts to share on your [Teacher Response Form](#) this spring. Your students could receive prizes – such as a garden center gift certificate or a school-wide performance by an Edutainer – to recognize their work!

The New Year is a great time to encourage your students to [Take THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE](#). This activity encourages students to take action at home or school to help protect the environment. During the 2014-2015 school year, more than 4,500 students took the pledge.

THE GREEN TEAM Spotlight

The Westford Instant Innovators First Lego League Team from **Stony Brook Middle School** in Westford created a system to improve recycling of plastic milk bottles at their school. Their DRINK DRAIN DROP system includes two bins. One bin has a funnel and pump for milk residue and the other bin has a sensor that counts each bottle recycled. In the first two weeks of using this system, the school recycled more than 2,000 milk bottles! View their [Recycling Milk Bottles](#) PowerPoint presentation to learn more.

In Peabody, **Captain Samuel Brown School's** "Master Crafter" creates cool jewelry out of soda can tabs. Teacher, Diane Bugler notes, "She is never seen without her bag of tabs and lacings, designing new can tab bracelets, necklaces and headbands. She sells her creations at our school events to help support our environmental club's activities."



Jessica Lazarus from **Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School** in Bridgewater reports on a wide assortment of Green Team activities going on at her school. These include building terrariums and a variety of recycling efforts. Students have been helping to sort through out-of-date magazines and books to recycle. They are also working with Terracycle to [recycle drink pouches](#).



Students at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School with their terrariums.

School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

The spring calendar is filling up with conferences, competitions, workshops, and funding opportunities!

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](#). This EPA workshop in North Chelmsford 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 4

[Massachusetts Envirothon](#) Ecostation Workshop at Worcester Technical High School for Envirothon teams and coaches.

February 12

[Registration deadline for the 2016 Massachusetts Envirothon](#). The topic this year is "Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society."

February 19

Next application deadline for [Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots Mini Grant](#) for youth-led service campaigns. These \$200 grants are available throughout the school year.

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.

March 22

Application deadline for the [MassCEC Learn and Earn Program](#). This program provides schools with funding to create programs that provide students with employment and training opportunities in clean energy/STEM-related occupations.

March 29

MassRecycle’s 2016 [R3 Recycling & Organics Conference & Trade Show](#) in Quincy. This is the largest annual recycling conference in Massachusetts.

April 15-16

[Massachusetts Sustainable Campuses and Sustainable Communities Conference](#) in Amherst and Northampton.

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).

May 12

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

May 16-17

[Northeast Resource Recovery Association Conference](#) in Nashua, NH.

Other Resources

For information about green cleaning in schools, visit [Green Clean Schools](#). The website's highlights include [5 Steps to Green Cleaning in Schools](#) and archives of [past webinars](#).

The [Sustainability in Schools Simulation Game](#) is a free downloadable activity to help teachers, administrators, and students in Grades 6-12 learn how to integrate sustainable practices into their schools.

Keep America Beautiful's [Waste in Place](#) website offers activities to help Pre-K to 6th grade students learn about litter prevention, recycling, and managing waste.

THE GREEN TEAM wishes your school a healthy 2016!

Emily Fabel

Green Team Program Administrator

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Contact Us:

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 290

Fax: (413) 586-7351

Email: recycle@thegreenteam.org

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