

**Schools From Across the Commonwealth Receive
‘Green Team’ Awards for 2015-16**

***Environmental Stewardship Educational Activities Deserving of Recognition***

BOSTON – [June 17, 2016] - Students from 66 schools in Massachusetts have received special recognition for outstanding environmental actions as members of the “Green Team,” a statewide environmental education program promoted by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

“I want to congratulate all the Green Team students, and thank the teachers for helping to generate that spark of interest and responsibility in protecting our natural resources,” said **Governor Charles D. Baker**. “Learning about environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices contributes to the greater good of everyone in the Commonwealth.”

“Massachusetts has many wonderful natural resources and the students of today will very soon be called upon to serve as the stewards of those resources tomorrow,” said **Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “We are proud to recognize Massachusetts schools, students and teachers who are working to have a positive impact on our environment.”

Students of any age can participate in the Green Team program, an initiative comprised of students who share the goals of reducing pollution and protecting the environment. Nearly 65,000 students in more than 346 classes at 314 schools joined the Green Team this past school year.

“Students who took the initiative to participate and volunteered to raise environmental awareness through Green Team activities deserve our thanks and congratulations,” said **EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton.** “Through the Green Team Program, we hope to instill in students knowledge of environmental issues and a desire to protect our natural world.”

Students took part in a range of activities, including:

* Expanding school recycling programs;
* Starting a compost pile using organic waste from the school cafeteria, and using the compost it generates to nourish a garden to grow vegetables;
* Making their school driveways “Idle-Free Zones;”
* Increasing energy efficiency in their schools and communities; and
* Reducing their carbon footprint at school and at home.

These activities incorporated class-room disciplines from the fields of science, engineering and mathematics to reading, writing and art, as well as other non-classroom, inter-related projects.

Participating classes were entered into a drawing for prizes, and 66 classes received prizes for their efforts (*full listing below*). Nineteen schools won grand prizes, and will receive school-wide performances by environmental educators Jack Golden, Peter O'Malley and Earthtunes, or gift cards to local garden centers for trees or garden supplies to further “green” their schools.

“Green Team members learn a good solid basis in environmental understanding, which they can always take with them or use as the basis for further study,” said Ma**ssDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg**. “Equally important is the need to thank the teachers, who channel all that youthful spirit into creativity in a way that helps these students move forward.”

Participating teachers also received a Green Team Kit containing classroom posters, lesson plans, recycling tips and access to a library of other resources. In addition, 86 schools received recycling equipment from the Green Team to initiate or expand school recycling programs. Fourteen schools received signs reading “Idle-Free Zone” from the Green Team that serve as a visual reminder to drivers to turn off their engines while waiting in the schoolyard.

Students at Dryden Veterans Memorial School in Springfield have been busy gardening. Second- and third-graders planted four fruit trees and planted vegetables and flowers. Third-graders also learned how to use both an outdoor compost bin and a worm bin.

“The school is greatly benefiting from our school garden as students are learning about where their food comes from and having so much fun doing it,” said **Jessica Burt, a teacher at Dryden Veterans Memorial School.** “They get so excited to get out and dig in the dirt, discover new creatures and learn how they all work together to help the plants grow.”

Students at Hawlemont Regional School in Charlemont have been working on reducing waste and composting. They even integrated this topic into math lessons by calculating the square footage of their dumpster. The students also turned their paper recycling into new paper to created bookmarks, seed packets, cards and gift tags.

Hull High School focused on reducing their plastic water bottle footprint this year with a “Think Outside the Bottle” campaign. This included sharing bottled water stats on informative water droplet signs around the school, a bottled-versus-tap taste test, and selling stainless steel water bottles with the school’s mascot on them.

Quinsigamond Elementary School in Worcester switched to plastic milk bottles in their cafeteria. Students empty the extra liquid from these bottles and recycle them. The school also held its third annual Recycled Art Contest, as well as its third annual electronics and metal recycling drive.

“We are moving one goal at a time towards reducing our carbon footprint as a school, and the mission of the club to conserve ecosystems is salient and spreading among the student body,” said Nina Marks **of** Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Lenox.

Littleton Public School District was recognized with a national Green Ribbon Schools award from the U.S. Dept. of Education for their outstanding environmental achievements.

Statewide, more than 3,000 students pledged to protect the environment through some or all of the following:

* Reducing, reusing or recycling;
* Walking, biking, carpooling or taking public transportation;
* Making a commitment to conserve energy and water;
* Encouraging parents and others to take an idling-reduction pledge and turn off car engines while parked or waiting;
* Tracking the trash generated in their home for one month, and subtracting the amount of trash their family eliminated via recycling; and,
* Improving school recycling or composting programs, conserving energy at school, visiting recycling facilities, meeting with municipal officials, planting school gardens, seeking alternatives to styrofoam lunch trays, building water-powered fuel cell kit cars, and creating signs, posters, videos and web pages to raise environmental awareness in their school community.

All participating classes received Certificates of Recognition, “Trash Terminator” bookmarks or grand prizes such as a show by Jack Golden, entitled “Garbage is My Bag”; a recycling and conservation show by Peter O'Malley; an environmental concert by Earthtunes, or gift cards to a nearby garden center for plants or school gardening supplies. Other Green Team prizes included Green Team wrist bands, biodegradable corn resin and recycled tire key rings, information wheels, “Compost Matters” activity books, and pencils made from recycled denim or currency.

To learn more or to participate in The Green Team program next school year, teachers may signup on-line at: [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org/).The following are the Green Team Prize winners:

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| 2015-2016 Green Team Grand Prize Winners |  |  |  |  |
| **School Name** | **Community** | **Teacher** | **Grade** | **Green Team Prize** |
| Lt. Job Lane Elementary School | Bedford | Jean Mickle | 3-5 | Garden Supplies |
| Edward M. Kennedy Academy For Health Careers | Boston | Angela Cappucci | 9-12 | Garden Supplies |
| Hawlemont Regional School | Charlemont | Jean Bruffee | K-6 | Recycling Show |
| Mount Alvernia Academy | Chestnut Hill | Maria Lyons | PreK-6 | Garden Supplies |
| St. Mary Of The Annunciation School | Danvers | Stacy Drector | PreK-8 | Earthtunes Concert |
| The Grow School | Dudley | Martha Burkett | k-12 | Recycling Show |
| Leroy L. Wood Elementary School | Fairhaven | Kimberly Katz | k-5 | Garden Supplies |
| Greenfield Math and Science Academy | Greenfield | Laurie Boosahda | 4-7 | Garden Supplies |
| Hopedale Memorial School | Hopedale | Jane LeClaire | 5 | Garden Supplies |
| Parthum Middle School | Lawrence | Julia Perlowski | 3-8 | Recycling Show |
| Washington Elementary School | Lowell | Cheryl Cunningham | 4 | Earthtunes Concert |
| Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School | Merrimac | Susan Simmons | Prek-2 | Recycling Show |
| Helen R. Donaghue School | Merrimac | Susan Simmons | 3-6 | Garden Supplies |
| Albert S. Woodward Memorial School | Southborough | Mary Ellen Duggan | 2-3 | Recycling Show |
| West Street School | Southbridge | Dana Juozaitis | 1 | Recycling Show |
| Dryden Memorial School | Springfield | Jessica Burt | K-4 | Garden Supplies |
| Ambrose Elementary School | Winchester | Laura Turenne | k-5 | Earthtunes Concert |
| Lincoln Elementary School | Winchester | Lisa Cormier | k-5 | Garden Supplies |
| Quinsigamond School | Worcester | Stephanie Syre-Hager | PreK-6 | Garden Supplies |
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| 2015-2016 Green Team Prize Winners |  |  |  |  |
| **School Name** | **Community** | **Teacher** | **Grade** | **Green Team Prize** |
| Paul P. Gates, M.D. Elementary School | Acton | Becky Acheson | 6 | Corn Resin Key Rings |
| Andover High School | Andover | Melanie Cutler | 9-12 | Information Wheels |
| Dallin Elementary School | Arlington | Charlotte Milan and Eileen Coleman | 2-5 | Wrist Bands |
| Oakmont Regional High School | Ashburnham | Alana Archangelo | 9-12 | Information Wheels |
| Swift River Elementary School | Belchertown | Cindy Fournier | 1 | Wrist Bands |
| Bernardston Elementary School | Bernardston | Jennifer Comiskey | k, 3 | Wrist Bands |
| Bridgewater - Raynham Regional High School | Bridgewater | Jessica Lazarus | 9-12 | Information Wheels |
| Andrew Peabody School | Cambridge | Leslie Williams-Dunn | Jr. Kinder | Wrist Bands |
| Warren Prescott School | Charlestown | Tina Champagne and Taylor Killough | 4-5 | Information Wheels |
| Dedham High School | Dedham | Christine Casali | 10-12 | Information Wheels |
| Boston Latin Academy | Dorchester | Kara Stafford | 11-12 | Information Wheels |
| Joseph Lee School | Dorchester | Alice Daly | 7-8 | Wrist Bands |
| Brookside Elementary School | Dracut | Denise Porcello | 2 | Wrist Bands |
| Agawam Junior High School | Feeding Hills | Sandra Johnson | 7 | Wrist Bands |
| Fitchburg High School | Fitchburg | Heather Root | 9-12 | Information Wheels |
| South Street Elementary School | Fitchburg | Cheryl Brandwein | 1 | Pencils |
| Federal Street School | Greenfield | Melissa Woolfrey | 3 | Wrist Bands |
| Greenfield High School | Greenfield | Catherine Wilkins | 11-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Greenfield Middle School | Greenfield | Donna Rivers | 5, 7 | Wrist Bands |
| Newton Elementary School | Greenfield | Alison Palermo | 2 | Wrist Bands |
| The Discovery School at Four Corners | Greenfield | Marguerite Rancourt | 4 | Wrist Bands |
| Halifax Elementary School | Halifax | Robin Steele | 6 | Wrist Bands |
| Essex Agricultural & Technical High School | Hawthorne | Jill Rasmus | 9-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Robert F. Kennedy Childrens Action Corps EWT School | Holyoke | Joanna Heron-Forge't | 9-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Hull High School | Hull | Sheila Blair | 9-12 | Corn Resin Key Rings |
| Silver Lake Regional Middle School | Kingston | Michelle Chaffee | 7-8 | Wrist Bands |
| Leicester High School | Leicester | Joanne Bernier | 9-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Lenox Memorial Middle And High School | Lenox | Nina Marks | 6-12 | Information Wheels |
| Johnny Appleseed School | Leominster | Kelly Barnaby and Jen Demers | 5 | Wrist Bands |
| Willie Ross School For The Deaf | Longmeadow | Dawn Cooke | 7-12 | Information Wheels |
| Bartlett Community Partnership School | Lowell | JoAnne Downing | PreK-8 | Wrist Bands |
| St. Patrick School and Education Center | Lowell | Margie O'Donnell | 4-5 | Wrist Bands |
| Paul R. Baird Middle School | Ludlow | Natalina Tulik | 6-8 | Information Wheels |
| St. Pius V School | Lynn | Michele Myers | 4-8 | Wrist Bands |
| The Evergreen Center | Milford | Fatima Diaz | Multi-grades | Wrist Bands |
| Greater New Bedford  Vocational Tech. High School | New Bedford | Christopher Pires and Lawrence Carlesi | 9-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Marion E. Zeh School | Northborough | Selvi Oyola | 3-5 | Information Wheels |
| Norwood High School | Norwood | Allison Leichtman | 9-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Captain Samuel Brown School | Peabody | Diane Bugler | K-5 | Wrist Bands |
| Pittsfield High School | Pittsfield | Dianne Renton | 11-12 | Information Wheels |
| Rockland Senior High School | Rockland | Angela Armstrong | 9-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Mount Everett Regional High School | Sheffield | Danielle Melino | k-12 | Wrist Bands |
| Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School | Yarmouth | Abir Zaineh | 8-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Swampscott High School | Swampscott | Brandy Wilbur | 9-12 | Wrist Bands |
| Sheffield Elementary School | Turners Falls | Karen Guillette | 2-3 | Wrist Bands |
| Innovation Academy Charter High School | Tyngsboro | Katharine Hinkle | 9-12 | Recycled Tire Key Rings |
| Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School | Williamsburg | Johanna Korpita | 2 | Wrist Bands |