

## October 2016 Newsletter

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*“By engaging the staff, students, and parents in various green initiatives to make our school more environmentally sustainable, we notice everyone has become more aware. The core model of the program is teaching the older students to be model “green” citizens in school, at home, and in the community.*

*We do this by integrating environmental topics into the curriculum and through community service projects.”*

- Diane Bugler, Captain Samuel Brown School, Peabody

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Welcome to the more than 180 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!

We have added a new challenge for this school year: a Textile Recovery Challenge! If you participate in this challenge, report how many pounds of textiles your school collects on your [Teacher Response Form](#). The goal of this challenge is to raise awareness about how most textiles can be donated – even those lone socks and stained t-shirts. Textiles that cannot be reused are recycled into other products, such as stuffing for car seats and industrial rags.

Collecting textiles can also be a fundraiser for your school! Here are several services in Massachusetts you can contact to set up textile collection at your school:

- [Bay State Textiles](#) offers a School Box Program to collect donated clothing, shoes, and linens to raise money for your school.
- [Recycle That](#) offers collection boxes to collect donated clothing, shoes, accessories, and books/CDs/DVDs to raise money for your school.
- [Bag 2 School](#) offers fundraising collections of clothes, soft toys, bedding, drapes, belts, purses, and shoes.

To learn more about textile recovery, visit:

- The [MassDEP Textile Recovery](#) page for textile recovery facts sheets, resources in your community, and other information.
- The Secondary Materials & Recycling Textiles Trade Association's page, [Wear It? Recycle It!](#), for lesson plans and other materials for teaching about textile recovery.

We look forward to hearing about your success at collecting textiles when you submit your [Teacher Response Form](#) in March!

## **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!](#)

## **GREEN TEAM in the Media**

[The Andover Townsman](#) reports that a program to eliminate wasted food at Sanborn Elementary School has expanded to all ten schools in the Andover School District. Schools in Andover are diverting food through a combination of composting food scraps and donating unopened packaged foods and whole fruits to a local food pantry. Schools in the district are incorporating environmental literacy into the curriculum, with students participating in recycling, composting, food rescue, outdoor activities, and energy saving projects.

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!

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## School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

Mark your Fall calendars with these grant opportunities, workshops, conferences and more!

**Oct 6** - Application deadline for 2016 [STEM Equipment Supplies Grant Program](#).

**Oct 7** - Application deadline for 2016 [Public Space Recycling Bin Grant Program](#) sponsored by Keep America Beautiful and Coca-Cola.

**Oct 12** - Webinar hosted by the National Farm to School Network: [Bringing Local to our Littlest Eaters: Local Procurement in Early Care and Education](#).

**Oct 13** - Webinar hosted by the New England Environmental Finance Center: [Food Recovery Programs in K-12 Schools](#).

**Oct 14** - Registration deadline for Keep America Beautiful's annual [Recycle-Bowl](#) competition.

**Oct 17-19** - [ReuseConex 2016](#), the 4th International Reuse Conference & Expo, Boston. The theme is 'Leveraging REUSE in a Circular Economy.'

**Oct 20** - [Massachusetts Science Education Leadership Association \(MSELA\) Conference](#), "Building Capacity, Shaping the Future," in Marlborough.

**Oct 20** - [Massachusetts Project Lead The Way Conference](#) at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester.

**Oct 24** - Annual National [Food Day](#).

**Oct 25-28** - [Webcasts](#) for Bat week at 1pm on a different bat-related topic each day of the week.

**Oct 31** - Application deadline for [Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant](#). Provides \$2,000 grant to support edible educational gardens on school grounds.

**Nov 3-4** - [Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\) Conference](#) in Boxborough. On Nov 3, MassDEP will lead the school composting workshop, "As the Worms Turn, So Turns the Compost." Worms provided free!

**Nov 4** - [Massachusetts Farm & Sea to School Conference](#) in Leominster. MassDEP will lead a workshop about the MassDEP food waste disposal ban and zero waste cafeteria programs. **Registration deadline: Oct 27.**

**Nov 15** - [America Recycles Day](#) sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Explore event ideas, register your recycling event or access free recycling materials.

**Nov 18** - [FIRST Women in Science & Technology Forum](#) for High School Students at UNH Manchester.

**Dec 2** - Application deadline for [Mass Clean Energy Center Clean Energy Day Program](#). This program funds a clean energy activity day for elementary and middle school students.

**Dec 8** - Application deadline for [USDA Farm to School grant](#). Schools and school districts can apply for a planning or implementation grants to start or expand a farm to school program.

### Other Resources

The **National Park Service** is again offering [free park passes for 4<sup>th</sup> graders!](#) These passes offer free access to national parks, forests, and wild refuges for the entire 2016-2017 school year.

**Food Day** offers a [School Curriculum](#) for upper elementary and middle school students. The curriculum includes five lessons with activities about healthy eating.

**Savers** created this [State of Reuse Report](#) on the state of reuse in North America from an April 2016 public survey.

Thanks for joining THE GREEN TEAM this school year!

**Emily Fabel**  
**Green Team Program Administrator**



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