

## November 2016 Newsletter

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*"These activities helped us be better at understanding our own environmental impact and at educating others and promoting sustainability."*

- Jill Rasmus, Essex Agricultural & Technical High School, Hathorne

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Last month, we sent out GREEN TEAM kits to over 200 schools that had registered so far this school year. If you registered recently, you'll receive a kit soon.

THE GREEN TEAM provides an assortment of resources to help you plan lessons and activities that engage your students with understanding environmental issues. These educational materials are available in [GREEN TEAM kits](#) mailed to all participants.

Some highlights include:

- The [Slash Trash Lesson](#) encourages students to track waste disposal at home as they identify and implement new waste reduction activities.
- The [Climate Change Activities](#) ask students to identify and track opportunities to conserve energy at home and at school.
- The [Clean Air Activities](#) empower students to improve air quality around their schools by creating an Idle Free Zone.

If your school is interested in creating an Idle Free Zone, THE GREEN TEAM offers [free idling reduction signs and materials](#) for registered schools!

The next distribution day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area is November 17 in West Roxbury. Submit a [recycling equipment application](#) by November 11 to receive equipment this fall. The next distribution day in the Boston area will be in April.

## **GREEN TEAM in the Spotlight**

Last Spring, all schools in the **Greenfield Public School District** started collecting food scraps from their lunchrooms and sending them to Martin's Compost Farm. A [recent post](#) on the Center for EcoTechnology blog describes how wasted food is transformed into a nutrient-rich soil amendment at compost operations like Martin's Compost Farm. The creation of this district-wide program to divert wasted food from disposal was made possible by a grant from the MassDEP [Sustainable Materials Recovery Program](#).

## **GREEN TEAM in the Media**

[WickedLocal Rockport](#) reports that the **Manchester Essex Regional High School** (MERHS) Green Team is holding their annual compost sale fundraiser. The MERHS is selling 40-pound bags of Black Earth Compost which is created, in part, from food scraps collected from the Manchester Essex school district.

## **School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development**

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

**Nov 3-4** – [Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\) Conference](#) in Boxborough. On November 3, MassDEP will lead the 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.

**Nov 11** – Deadline to submit [recycling equipment request](#) for Nov 17 distribution date in West Roxbury.

**Nov 14** – Submission deadline for [International Compost Awareness Week Poster Competition](#).

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

**Nov 16** – [Proposal deadline](#) for topics for the [National Green Schools Conference and Expo](#), to be held March 21-22 in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Nov 17** - Distribution day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. [Register](#) for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2016-2017 school year and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) to request equipment. There will also be distribution date in April. Submit request by Nov 11 to receive equipment on Nov 17.

**Nov 17** – Webinar hosted by the [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#) about updates to their data system and recent school travel trends. [Register here](#).

**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 planning or implementation grants to start or expand a farm to school program.

#### **Other Resources**

The **National Center for Safe Routes to School** recently published a report analyzing [Trends in Walking and Bicycling to School](#) from 2007 to 2014. Walking and biking rates are on the increase!

Jennifer Seydel of the [Green Schools National Network](#) recently gave a **TEDx Talk** about [Green, Healthy, Sustainable Schools](#). Watch for examples of efforts schools across the country are undertaking to design and operate green facilities, promote health and well-being, and create curricula that embrace sustainability.

We hope THE GREEN TEAM's resources help with environmental education efforts at your school this school year!

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