

January 2017 Newsletter

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"One of our sixth grade science units is climate change and the climate change activities are perfect! I love the vocabulary words and website links!"

- Jean Chambers, Gates Intermediate School, Scituate

Happy New Year GREEN TEAM Teachers!

We hope your students are taking action to help the environment as we kick off 2017! 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 at school help protect the environment. During the 2015-2016 school year, more than 3,000 students took the pledge.

The GREEN TEAM recently posted a new table aligning GREEN TEAM activities with the 2016 [Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework](#). Several Green TEAM lessons and activities align with these standards, including:

- [Climate Change Activities](#)
- [Composting Lesson Plan](#)
- [Light Bulb Lesson](#)
- [Slash Trash Lesson Plan](#)
- [Clean Air and Idling Reduction Activities](#)

Updated alignments to the English Language Arts and Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks will be posted this spring.

GREEN TEAM in the Spotlight



Students at Mt. Alvernia Academy in Chestnut Hill display their recycling bins. This recycling equipment was provided by THE GREEN TEAM. Request recycling bins by submitting a [Recycling Equipment Application](#).

This wonderful picture did not display correctly in our last newsletter, so we are sharing it again this month!



In November, The Nahant Department of Public Works and the Johnson Elementary School Green Team joined together to install Idle-Free Zone signs (provided by THE GREEN TEAM) outside of the school. Submit an [application form](#) to request free idle reduction signs or materials for your school.

GREEN TEAM in the Media

If your school is covered in the local media, let us know and we'll add it to [THE GREEN TEAM in the media!](#)

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

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

Jan 15 – Submission deadline for Make [#NotWasting](#) Food a Way of Life video contest.

Jan 20 – [Roots and Shoots Mini-Grant](#) deadline. Educators are invited to apply for a mini-grant to start, support, or celebrate the service campaigns of their schools or students.

Jan 25 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: Engineering Goes Underwater, and Bringing You Up to Speed on the Practice of Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking](#). First of four full-day sessions at Clark University in Worcester. These sessions explore STEM content areas in the morning and skill-based hands-on activities in the afternoon. Register for any number of the four sessions: Jan 25, Feb 16, Mar 16, and April 12.

Jan 31 – Application deadline for [Captain Planet Foundation Small Grants](#). Grants up to \$2,500 are available to help support environment-focused, project-based activities performed by young people.

Feb 1 - Mass Envirothon [Ecostation Workshop](#). Three sessions will be held for in-depth explorations of four station areas. An agenda with more details will be posted soon!

Feb 3 – Registration deadline for [BioenergizeME Infographic Challenge](#). Encourages high school student teams to research cross-curricular bioenergy topics and design infographics to share what they have learned through various social media channels.

Feb 16 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: An Unexpected Path to the Antarctic, and Communicating About Climate Change: An Interdisciplinary Challenge](#). Second of four full-day sessions.

Feb 20 OR Feb 23 – New England Aquarium [Climate Science for Educators Workshop](#) in Boston. Two sessions are being offered for this workshop, which will examine the use and distribution of natural resources, effect humans have on the climate, current and future natural disasters, and the ways humans are developing solutions to climate change.

Feb 23 – Submission deadline for [World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest](#). Students must create a short video about human population growth that highlights a global challenge.

Mar 1 – Application Deadline for the [President's Environmental Youth Award](#). The award recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 students, as well as promoting awareness of the nation's natural resources and encouraging community involvement.

Mar 10 – Registration deadline for the [Eversource Challenge](#), a program for K-12 students living in Eversource electric communities. The Challenge invites students to showcase their knowledge on saving energy, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainability through various assignments.

Mar 16 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: Alien Solar Eclipses: The Importance of](#)

Modeling in the Search for Exoplanets, and **Sunny With a Chance of Simulations**. Third of four full-day sessions.

Mar 27 – [MassRecycle's R3 Recycling & Organics Conference & Trade Show](#). The R3 Conference is the biggest annual recycling and organics conference in Massachusetts, and one of the biggest state conferences in the nation. At R3, MassRecycle fosters discussion on issues that affect recycling, reuse, and waste reduction, and provides a venue to convene individuals from all sectors.

April 12 – [MITS Professional Development Seminar Series: Imitating Mother Nature to Improve Chemical Reactions](#), and **“I’d Like to Have an Argument”**: Making Meaning Through Conversation. Final of four full-day sessions.

May 18 – [Massachusetts Envirothon 2017](#) at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. High school students show how much they know about Massachusetts’ soils, forests, water, and wildlife, as well as this year’s current issue, Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation, at this outdoor field competition. Teams rotate through four “ecostations” where they answer written questions and engage in hands-on activities.

May 22-23 – Save the date for the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) [36th Annual Conference & Expo in](#) Manchester, NH.

Other Resources

The [School Cafeteria Discards Assessment Project \(SCrAP\)](#) is a nationwide data collection program developed to quantify food and related waste generated in cafeterias of K-12 schools nationally. [Register](#) to share your school’s waste management practices and help guide future policy initiatives to minimize waste at schools nationwide. Participating schools are eligible for prizes to support their activities.

The [One Less Straw Campaign](#) strives to educate the public about the dangers of single use plastic straws and their effects on our health, our environment, and our oceans. Schools can [sign up](#) and take the pledge to hand out plastic straws only if requested.

The GREEN TEAM wishes your school a healthy 2017!

Emily Fabel
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