

December 2017 Newsletter

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We like your programming material and the ideas you have for the students. Thank you for all your help through the years."

-Ms. Diane Bugler, Captain Samuel Brown School, Peabody

Season's Greetings GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Thank you for empowering your students to help the environment! [GREEN TEAM participants](#) across Massachusetts are busy building compost bins, setting up idle-free zones, expanding their recycling programs, and much more!

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

Making Your School an Idle-Free Zone This Winter

On cold winter days, drivers often choose to idle their cars to stay warm, not realizing this increases air pollution. The GREEN TEAM [Clean Air Activities](#) (PDF) teaches students:

- The concept of air quality and how it affects health
- How vehicle exhaust contributes to air pollution
- Ways students and their families can take action to improve air quality

Students can also get their parents involved by encouraging them to sign a [GREEN TEAM Idling Reduction Pledge](#), in which they promise to turn off their vehicle's engine when waiting to pick up their child or running errands.



GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Manchester Essex Regional High School students are hard at work assembling their new compost bins and preparing the school's community gardens for winter.



Students in Keith Gray's class at Manchester Essex Regional Middle High School building compost bins and winterizing the gardens.

Over the last two years, Centerville Elementary students have been letting their creativity fly while learning about a variety of important environmental topics. Check out these excellent videos highlighting their innovative projects:

- Fifth-grade students used [recycling to create eco couture](#)



- Second- and fifth-graders worked on [hydroponics and aquaponics farming](#)
- Fifth-grade students learned about [the importance of growing food and buying local](#)
- Fourth-graders painted a [climate change mural in the school library](#)

Throughout the school year, please send us photos and stories about the great work you are doing so we can share them in [THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) and [THE GREEN TEAM Spotlight!](#)
Email recycle@thegreenteam.org to share your GREEN TEAM successes.

GREEN TEAM in the Media

Congratulations to GREEN TEAM participant **Katharine Lee Bates Elementary School** in Wellesley for receiving a [Regional Food Recovery Achievement Certificate](#) in recognition of their work reducing food waste as part of the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge.

The *Cape Cod Times* recently reported on the innovative [composting program at Barnstable High School](#), which was implemented by one high school senior as part of a project for her Advanced Placement Environmental Science Club.

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!

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

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

December 7 – [Massachusetts Energy Education Workshop](#) in Newton. This daylong workshop offers NEED curriculum kits to participating teachers, as well as networking opportunities and a variety of information on teaching energy and energy efficiency in the classroom.

December 8 – Application deadline for Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's [Clean Energy Activity Day Program](#). This program funds a clean energy activity day for elementary and middle school students.

December 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.

December 13 – [Massachusetts Energy Education Workshop](#) in Worcester. This daylong workshop offers NEED curriculum kits to participating teachers, as well as networking opportunities and a variety of information on teaching energy and energy efficiency in the classroom.

January 15 – Application deadline for the [Captain Planet Foundation's ecoSolution Grants](#). Grants of up to \$2,500 are available to help support environment-focused, project-based activities performed by young people.

January 22 – [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.

January 24 – [Museum Institute for Teaching Science \(MITS\) 2018 Professional Development Seminar Series: Extreme Events and Climate Change: What We Know and Some Ideas About What to Do About It and How We Know What We Know: Using Real-World Data to Explore Key Climate](#)

Concepts. First of four full-day sessions, exploring STEM content areas in the morning and skill-based hands-on activities in the afternoon.

February 14 – [Museum Institute for Teaching Science \(MITS\) 2018 Professional Development Seminar Series: Developing a Taste for Molecular Biology and Sharing Science: Connecting Scientists and Engineers with the Public](#). Second of four full-day sessions, exploring STEM content areas in the morning and skill-based hands-on activities in the afternoon.

February 21-22 – New England Aquarium [Climate Science for Educators](#) workshop. This two day workshop will examine the use and distribution of natural resources, the effects humans have on the climate, current and future natural disasters, and the ways humans are developing solutions to climate change.

February 22 – 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.

March 28 – [Museum Institute for Teaching Science \(MITS\) 2018 Professional Development Seminar Series: Dig In: Strengthening Sustainability Learning Through Farm-to-School Connections](#). Third of four full-day sessions, exploring STEM content areas in the morning and skill-based hands-on activities in the afternoon.

April 24 – [Museum Institute for Teaching Science \(MITS\) 2018 Professional Development Seminar Series: The Technology, Data and People Behind Forecasting in the National Weather Service and Engaging Students with Weather & Climate Through Media](#). Final of four full-day sessions, exploring STEM content areas in the morning and skill-based hands-on activities in the afternoon.

Other Resources

The **Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources** collaborated to create a [Food Waste Minimization Toolkit for Iowa Schools](#) based on a 2016 pilot project which involved on-site waste audits across 11 different schools. This toolkit is intended to assist school administrators and nutrition staff in reducing food insecurity and waste at K-12 schools.

BioCycle recently published an article about [Food Waste Reduction Strategies in K-12 Schools](#), highlighting the Iowa Waste Reduction Center's K-12 waste audits and the School Cafeteria Discards Assessment Project (SCrAP). SCrAP was developed by the Environmental Research and

Education Foundation (EREF), in collaboration with the School Nutrition Foundation and Keep America Beautiful, to establish a baseline of national data on food waste management in K-12 Schools. [Click here](#) to learn more about SCrAP and to register your school.

Best wishes for Happy Holidays and a very happy New Year!

Emily Fabel

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