

## February 2018 Newsletter

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*"We love the green team program and activities and look forward to participating each year!"*

- Ms. Diane Thureson, South Shore Natural Science Center Preschool, Norwell

Hello, GREEN TEAM Teachers!

More than 41,500 students from 228 schools across Massachusetts are participating in THE GREEN TEAM so far this school year! See the [Participating Schools](#) list if you'd like to network with other teachers in your area.

We look forward to hearing about what your students have been doing when you send in your Teacher Response Form (TRF). **Submit your TRF [online](#) or mail in the [printable version](#) by March 31** so your students can receive prizes and recognition for their work.

### **MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grant Awardees**

The MassDEP provides grant funding to improve local recycling, composting, reuse, and hazardous waste diversion programs. Congratulations to the following municipalities that were awarded [SMRP Grants](#) for school recycling equipment and implementation assistance in 2018:

- City of Salem
- City of Somerville
- Town of Uxbridge

MassDEP accepts applications for SMRP grants between early April and mid-June annually. Visit the [MassDEP SMRP Grant webpage](#) to learn how to apply.

### Don't leave the lights on!

Did you know you can save up to \$500 by replacing just one incandescent light bulb with a long-lasting, energy-efficient LED light bulb? Check out the [GREEN TEAM Curricula](#) available on the website for a newly-updated **Light Bulb Energy Efficiency Lesson**, [Answer Key](#), and [Energy Reduction Pledge](#). This lesson is aligned with Massachusetts Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks for [Science and Technology/Engineering](#) and will soon be added to the Mathematics and English Language Arts Frameworks. This classroom activity asks students to compare the cost and energy use of an incandescent, CFL, and LED bulb, while the Energy Reduction Pledge encourages parents to join their students in saving energy at home and replacing incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs whenever possible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Calculate Your Savings**  
Comparing Bulbs Producing the Same Amount of Light

By saving energy, we can help prevent climate change. One way you can save energy is to replace your incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) or light emitting diode (LED) bulb. Incandescent light bulbs use energy to produce light, but they also produce a lot of heat. Only 10% of an incandescent light bulb's energy is used to create light. About 90 percent of its energy is wasted generating heat. CFL and LED light bulbs use most of their energy to create light. Because of this, much less energy is wasted, resulting in a cooler, more efficient light bulb. Let's figure out the difference between the three light bulbs in the amount of energy used and cost.

	1 Incandescent Bulb	1 CFL Bulb	1 LED Bulb
Amount of electricity used:	60 watts	15 watts (producing the same amount of light as a 60 watt incandescent bulb)	10 watts (producing the same amount of light as a 60 watt incandescent bulb)
Lifespan:	1,000 hours	10,000 hours	50,000 hours
Cost of bulb: Actual amount varies very significantly by retailer	\$ 1.00 	\$ 3.00 	\$ 6.00 
Cost of electricity over lifespan: Estimated at 20 cents per kilowatt hour	\$12.00	\$36.00	\$100.00



**THE GREEN TEAM Energy Reduction PLEDGE**

In our classroom we are learning about the benefits of saving energy and actions that we can take to protect our climate. One way you can ensure energy reduction at home is to replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) or light emitting diode (LED) bulbs.

Please sign and return the pledge below to let your child know that you are joining with other parents in our school's GREEN TEAM effort to protect our planet and save energy.

Compared to incandescent bulbs, each bulb you replace with an LED:

- Uses 80 percent less energy
- Lasts 5 times longer
- Saves 300 pounds of carbon dioxide annually
- Saves you up to \$500 over the life of the bulb



Brought to you by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

### GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Students at **Mt. Alvernia Academy** in Chestnut Hill proudly recycle using their new bins from THE GREEN TEAM. They cleverly labeled each recycling bin with their classroom name and number so they don't go missing.



*Students at Mt. Alvernia Academy in Chestnut Hill are braving the cold to recycle this winter.*

The Town of Arlington received a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant from the MassDEP to improve recycling and food waste diversion in their schools. As a result, five elementary schools in the **Arlington Public Schools** district are now diverting organics from their kitchens and cafeterias. Each bin is organized and labeled to instruct students how to pour liquids, recycle empty containers, separate organics, and dispose of the remainder as trash.



*Arlington Public Schools developed clear and concise signage to help students sort recyclables, compostable materials, and trash.*

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](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org) to share your GREEN TEAM successes.

### **GREEN TEAM in the Media**

**Brookline High School** in Brookline is now [diverting 3 tons of food waste per month](#) from the cafeteria. The food waste is sent to Save that Stuff, where it is prepared for anaerobic digestion, a process converting organics into a fertilizer product and methane which can be captured to generate energy.

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!

**Feb 9** – [Mass Envirothon Winter Workshop](#) for Teams and Coaches. Topics will include soil, forests, water, and wildlife.

**Feb 14** – [Museum Institute for Teaching Science \(MITS\) 2018 Professional Development Seminar Series: 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.

**Feb 15** – Registration deadline for [Mass Envirothon 2018](#). This program challenges high school-aged young people to get outdoors and explore while testing their environmental knowledge.

**Feb 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.

**Feb 22** – [World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest](#) submission deadline. Students must create a short video about human population growth that highlights a global challenge.

**Feb 22** – Massachusetts Horticulture Society [School Garden Conference: Growing for Experience](#). The fourth annual school garden conference will feature workshops that explore regional best practices for planning and running a garden that will not only meet educational goals, but also foster life skills. Includes a classroom composting session.

**Mar 1** – Application deadline for [President's Environmental Youth Award](#). This program honors a wide variety of projects developed by young individuals, school classes, summer camps, public interest groups, and youth organizations, to promote environmental awareness.

**Mar 7** – Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) [2018 Conference](#). The MEES conference brings together environmental educators from across the state to network and learn new skills. Be sure to come by and say hello at THE GREEN TEAM table in the exhibit area!

**Mar 26** – [MassRecycle R3 Conference](#) in Framingham. The R3 Conference is the biggest annual recycling and organics conference in Massachusetts, and one of the biggest state conferences in the nation. The conference includes a track for K-12 schools.

**Mar 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.

**Mar 30** – Nomination deadline for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs 2018 [Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education](#). This annual award program, held at the State House, recognizes school and teachers (K-12) across the Commonwealth for their outstanding efforts in furthering energy and environmental education initiatives at their schools.

**Mar 31** – Deadline to submit **THE GREEN TEAM [Teacher Response Forms](#)** to report your students' activities and receive a Certificate of Recognition and student prizes to recognize their work.

**April 3** – [National Healthy Schools Day](#). Whether you are at the beginning stages of investigating school environments or have an established indoor air/environmental quality program, use this day to host a local activity that educates others and celebrates your school's successes!

**April 5** – **GREEN TEAM recycling equipment distribution day, West Roxbury, 10:00 am**. Submit an [equipment request](#) by **March 31** if you want to pick up equipment on Apr. 5. **This will be the last**

**equipment distribution day in West Roxbury until Sept. 2018.**

**April 8** – Jr. Tech [2018 Girls STEM Summit](#) in Weston. This is a one-day statewide summit for young women in grades 8-12 who love STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering & Math, and would like to learn more about emerging careers in these fields.

**April 16** – Application deadline for [2018 Carton 2 Garden Contest](#). Contest winners will be selected based on their implementation of an innovative garden creation featuring creative and sustainable uses of repurposed milk and juice cartons.

**April 22** – [Earth Day](#) – In 1970, the first year of Earth Day, the movement gave voice to an emerging consciousness, channeling human energy toward environmental issues. The theme of Earth Day this year is "End Plastic Pollution."

**Apr 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.

**Apr 28** – Keep Massachusetts Beautiful [2018 Great Massachusetts Cleanup](#). Join with your neighbors, friends, family, and co-workers to clean up and beautify your neighborhood or community.

**May 18** – [Massachusetts Envirothon 2018](#). Save the date for this year's Massachusetts Envirothon, at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge.

**Other Resources**

Coca Cola of Northern New England's Sustainability Manager, Ray Dube, offers [free educational presentations](#) for K-12 students. These presentations focus on what materials should go into the recycling bin, how the material is processed, and what the material gets turned into. For more information about his presentations, please reach out to Ray at [rdube@ccnne.com](mailto:rdube@ccnne.com) or (603) 860-4937.

In preparation for [Plant Something Week](#) in May, free [Plant Something Kits](#) are now available while supplies last, courtesy of the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association and Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom. Each kit contains enough pots, growing medium, and seeds for your entire class to learn how to garden.



Sign up to receive a free [Plant Something Kit](#) while supplies are available!

THE GREEN TEAM hopes you have fun as you prepare for spring!

**Emily Fabel**

**Green Team Program Administrator**

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