

March 2018 Newsletter

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"Thank you, I think this is a great program you have, I can't wait to share it with our students."

- Ms. Karen Yvon, Farmington River Elementary School, Otis

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Please submit your [Teacher Response Form](#) by **March 31st** so your class is eligible for prizes and a Certificate of Recognition. THE GREEN TEAM looks forward to acknowledging all the hard work you and your students have put into waste diversion, energy efficiency, and other environmental activities. We want to hear about your experiences and reward your students for their accomplishments!

The next pickup day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment from the West Roxbury location is set for Thursday, April 5. For schools in the eastern part of the state, submit an [equipment request](#) by **March 31** to pick up equipment from West Roxbury this spring.

Great Massachusetts Cleanup

Keep Massachusetts Beautiful is hosting its annual [Great Massachusetts Cleanup](#) on Saturday, April 28. Each spring, Keep Massachusetts Beautiful encourages volunteers across the state to organize litter cleanups, park maintenance projects, tree planting, and other community service events. This is a great opportunity to work together with your students and co-workers to create a cleaner, greener environment in your community.

Last spring more than more than 6,800 volunteers worked across the state, collecting more than 160 tons of litter. Visit the [Great Massachusetts Cleanup](#) website to learn more about organizing your own Cleanup event this spring.



GREEN TEAM Spotlight

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

The *Community Advocate* recently described how fourth and fifth graders at **Marion E. Zeh Elementary School** in Northborough are [bringing more awareness to textile and electronic recycling](#). Each month, the school's Environmental Club focuses on a new topic that aligns with the classroom curriculum. In January, the Environmental Club organized a textile recycling competition between different classrooms and, in February, they hosted an Electronics Recycling Day fundraiser.

The *Martha's Vineyard Times* reported on the [Zero Waste Movie Night](#) held at **West Tisbury School** on Martha's Vineyard in January. In support of the school's zero waste initiative, attendees were encouraged to bring their own cups and plates from home to receive reduced-priced concessions. Sixth graders also collected signatures in support of a student-founded initiative, Safe Sea MV, which would introduce a new bylaw prohibiting the intentional release of helium or lighter-than-air balloons in West Tisbury. The featured movie, [Everything Connects](#), is the third documentary from 14 year old filmmaker Dylan D'Haeze, who traveled with his mother from the West Coast to attend this special event.

A recent *Woburn Patch* article describes how fifth grade students from **Linscott-Rumford Elementary School** in Woburn [were awarded a field trip to the Museum of Science](#) after winning their school-wide recycling contest. The class collected more than 7,000 bottles for recycling in just 10 days as part of the JN Phillips Auto Glass Greenshield Recycling Education initiative. During the field trip, the students were also joined by Celtics center Aron Baynes, Celtics Mascot "Lucky" the Leprechaun, and JN Phillips President, Bob Rosenfield.

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!

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's table in the exhibit area!

Mar 9 – 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 of saving energy, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainability through various assignments.

Mar 14 – Registration deadline for Eco-School USA's [Green STEM Course](#). This online, self-paced professional development course is designed to increase your content knowledge, demonstrate examples of environmentally-based Green STEM currently in action, and provide you with the tools and strategies to implement your own Green STEM learning opportunities. Click here to [register](#).

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 session on cafeteria recycling 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 schools and teachers (K-12) across the Commonwealth for their outstanding efforts in furthering energy and environmental education initiatives.

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.

Mar 31 – Deadline to submit **THE GREEN TEAM** [equipment requests](#) for the April 5 distribution day.

Apr 1 – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom [Mini-Grant Deadline](#).

Apr 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!

Apr 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 September 2018.**

Apr 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.

Apr 13-22 – 12th Annual [Cambridge Science Festival](#), a 10-day celebration showcasing fun and the leading edge in science, technology, engineering, art, and/or math in our region. The multifaceted, multicultural festival features more than 200 events designed to make science accessible, engaging, and fun.

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

Apr 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 to “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 17 – Mark your calendars for [Outdoor Classroom Day](#), a day to celebrate and inspire learning and play outside the classroom. Join schools from across the world in taking at least one class outdoors for one lesson!

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

May 21-22 – Save the Date for the Northeast Resource Recovery Association's [37th Annual Conference & Expo](#) in Manchester, NH, including the [9th Annual School Recycling Conference](#) on May 22.

Other Resources

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission in New Hampshire offers [educational materials](#) to teach students about toxic products in home and at school, and how to handle them safely or not use them at all.

We look forward to receiving your [Teacher Response Form](#) and hearing about what your students have been working on this year!

Emily Fabel

Green Team Program Administrator

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