

April 2018 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



"[Our students] have had so much fun doing this work and cannot wait to continue to build upon it next year!"

-Tamiko Porter, Director / Lead Teacher, Norwood Montessori School

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Thank you for submitting your Teacher Response Form! We love hearing about what your students have been learning and accomplishing this year. THE GREEN TEAM is compiling responses and will award prizes later this spring!

Massachusetts School Gardening Resources

If your class or school is interested in learning more about school gardening, be sure to check out the resources below. Don't forget: one of the grand prizes for participating in THE GREEN TEAM is a gift certificate to a local gardening center, so after you've clicked the links, make sure you've submitted your [Teacher Response Form](#)!

- Massachusetts Farm to School has a list of [School Garden Resources](#) and a number of other [tools available for MA Educators](#) to incorporate hands-on farm to school learning opportunities in the classroom.

- The Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom [School Garden Manuals/Guides](#) were designed to Massachusetts standards and frameworks, and cover such topics as gardening in the city, siting the garden, and transplanting.
- The MassDEP [School Composting Resource Package](#) covers a variety of topics, and outlines how composting fits into the Massachusetts Department of Education Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.
- The Springfield Food Policy Council has an online [School Garden Resource Guide](#) for Massachusetts schools. The guide includes a checklist for getting started, recommendations for which plants to grow, and examples of other school gardens in the state.
- The Massachusetts Horticultural Society offers different [programs for schools](#) including the traveling Plantmobile, which is designed to provide pre-K to eighth-grade students with hands-on plant science education in the classroom.
- THE GREEN TEAM website provides a number of different resources for teaching students about gardening and [food waste reduction](#), including the [How to Compost at School instructional video](#).

Green Team Spotlight

Cambridge Public Schools established an easy-to-follow five-step cafeteria separation system for students with clear signage and instructions. The school district also replaced its styrofoam lunch trays with compostable paper trays.



TRASH

Utensils, straws, wrappers, chip bags, plastic bags, yogurt cups (Too dirty at school to recycle. At home, rinse & recycle.)

LIQUIDS

Drinks, soup, cereal milk, ice

RECYCLE

Empty cartons, juice cups, juice boxes, cereal bowls, foil, Lunchables trays and boxes, paper bags

FOOD

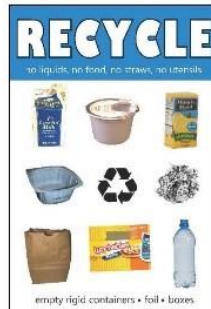
All food
*(no liquids,
no wrappers,
no containers)*

COMPOSTABLE PAPER

Trays, plates, bowls, boats, napkins, paper towels, waxed paper



START HERE!



Contact Meryl Brott: 617-349-4836, mbrott@cambridgema.gov



*Photos provided by Meryl Brott, Cambridge Department of Public Works
Recycling Program Manager.*

Agawam Junior High School students in Feeding Hills are working together to construct new greenhouses for planting a hydroponic garden.



Photos provided by Agawam Junior High School teacher Sandee Johnson.

At **Norwood Montessori School** in Norwood, students are busy setting up their recycling and composting equipment and experimenting with solar-powered vehicles.



Photos provided by Norwood Montessori School Director and Lead Teacher Tamiko Porter.

Check out the [GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) for even more recent photos. Please email your photos to recycle@thegreenteam.org to share them in the gallery and in upcoming newsletters.

GREEN TEAM in the Media

The Lowell Sun recently described how students at **Nashoba Valley Technical High School** are [participating in the eighth annual Eco-Carpentry Challenge](#) sponsored by The Furniture Trust. This annual challenge asks students to demonstrate their creativity and commitment to recycling by converting donated office furniture into repurposed products. See the events section below for more information on the [eighth annual Eco-Carpentry Challenge](#).

Wicked Local Marshfield reported on two members of the **Marshfield High School** Green Team who are getting involved in local government by [advocating for a local plastic bag ban](#). The high school seniors are spreading the word among other students and inviting classmates who have turned 18 to attend upcoming town meetings.

The Boston Globe recently reported on **Hingham High School's** ["Slash the Trash" lunchtime competition](#). The program engages all 32 of the school's varsity sports teams, with the goal of reducing the amount of trash that students generate at lunch each day. Each team takes turns setting up collecting stations in the cafeteria to help students properly separate recyclable and compostable materials from the trash. School custodians monitor the activities and issue "penalties" for compostable or recyclable materials that are thrown into the wrong bin. The award-winning program has proven to be successful in motivating students, staff, and other schools to practice environmentally-friendly habits. And they compost on-site in compost bins provided by THE GREEN TEAM!

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!

Apr 4 – Extended 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 at their schools.

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 15 – Application deadline for the [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#). This prize recognizes outstanding young leaders ages eight to eighteen who have made a significant positive impact on people, their communities, and the environment.

Apr 16 – Application deadline for the [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.

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 23-29 – [National Environmental Education Week](#), which celebrates the benefits of environmental education and encourages stewardship of our essential resources: land, air, and water.

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 27 – [Stop Food Waste Day](#) strives to educate and ignite change regarding the food waste epidemic. The goal is to draw attention to the problem as well as create and share innovative and impactful solutions.

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

May 9 – [Bike to School Day](#) celebrates the benefits of biking and walking to school. Register your school's event to be counted among the thousands of schools who participate each year and be entered into drawings for bikes and helmets!

May 10 – The Furniture Trust's [eighth annual Eco-Carpentry Challenge](#) invites students across Massachusetts to develop new products from a suite of used office furniture donated by local organizations to increase awareness about the value of upcycling. Participating students showcase their

creations at this special event in Boston.

May 15 – Pledge to get your hands dirty on [Plant Something Day](#). Gardening can beautify your neighborhood, reduce your stress level, cut your home energy costs, and provide pollen or nectar for pollinators.

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 [37th Annual Conference & Expo](#) in Manchester, NH, including the [9th Annual School Recycling Conference](#) on May 22.

June 18 – Application deadline for the [Ocean Awareness Contest](#). Students aged 11-18 from around the world are invited to explore, express, and advocate for issues related to climate change and our oceans through creative visual art, poetry, prose, film, or music projects.

Other Resources

A recent BioCycle article highlights a new [K-12 School Food Recovery Roadmap](#) that can be customized for any state, municipality, or school district to develop a food waste reduction & recovery program. This roadmap was developed based on the successes of steps and initiatives taken by the Oakland and San Diego School Districts in California.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation's [Future of Food initiative](#) offers toolkits & webinars including "Tossed Treasures – How We All Can Waste Less Food."

TEACHERS! TEACHERS! TEACHERS! SHOP FOR FREE! Come one, come all to [Re-Stream's](#) FRe-Stream store at 124 Prospect Street, Waltham, MA. The FRe-Stream store has a wide range of office/school supplies, such as white paper, pens, markers, white boards, cork boards, recycling bins, and more. Re-Stream repurposes and donates office/school supplies to any school teacher in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Please call John Fantasia at 781-899-0059 for more information.

We wish you a happy Earth Day on April 22!

Emily Fabel

Green Team Program Administrator

Copyright © 2018 The Green Team, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this e-mail because you are part of The Green Team.

Contact Us:

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 290
Fax: (413) 586-7351
Email: recycle@thegreenteam.org

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)