



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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Massachusetts Environmental Officials Present 'Green Team' Awards to Massachusetts Schools

MassDEP Recognizes Young Environmental Stewardship Educational Activities

BOSTON –State environmental officials today recognized students from 59 schools across the Commonwealth for outstanding environmental actions as members of the “Green Team,” a statewide environmental education program sponsored by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

“The Baker-Polito Administration congratulates all the Green Team teachers and students who showed leadership and initiative during the past school year to raise environmental awareness at their schools, homes and communities through Green Team activities,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “This important educational program helps students take action to protect our natural resources, and brings to life the subjects they are learning in school.”

Students of any age can participate in the Green Team program, an initiative composed of students who share the goals of reducing pollution and protecting the environment. Over 50,000 students in nearly 300 classes at 267 schools joined the Green Team this school year.

Students took part in a range of activities, including:

- Expanding school recycling programs;
- Collecting textiles for donation and recycling;
- Starting a compost pile using organic waste from the school cafeteria, and using the compost it generates to nourish a garden to grow vegetables;
- Making their school driveways “Idle-Free Zones”;
- Increasing energy efficiency in their schools and communities; and
- Reducing their carbon footprint at school and at home.

These activities incorporated classroom disciplines from the fields of science, engineering and mathematics to reading, writing and art, as well as other non-classroom, interrelated projects.

“Green Team students develop creative approaches to environmental stewardship and make a big difference in their schools and communities with their energy conservation, recycling, composting and pollution prevention

projects,” said **MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg**. “Each year, Green Team participants are working to have a positive impact on our environment, and take steps to expand recycling and energy efficiency efforts.”

Participating teachers received a Green Team Kit containing classroom posters, lesson plans, recycling tips and access to a library of other resources. In addition, 60 schools received recycling equipment from the Green Team to initiate or expand school recycling programs. Twelve schools received signs reading “Idle-Free Zone” from the Green Team that serve as a visual reminder to drivers to turn off their engines while waiting in the schoolyard.

Participating classes were entered into a drawing for prizes, and 59 classes received prizes for their efforts (*full listing below*). Nineteen schools won grand prizes, and will receive schoolwide performances by environmental educators Jack Golden, Peter O’Malley and Earthtunes, or gift cards to local garden centers for trees or garden supplies to further “green” their schools.

To learn more or to participate in the 2018-19 school year, the 17th year for the Green Team, teachers may sign up online [here](#).

The following are the Green Team prize winners:

2017-2018 Green Team Grand Prize Winners		
School Name	Community	Grade
Agawam Junior High School	Agawam	7
Clifford M. Granger School	Agawam	K-4
John A. Bishop Elementary School	Arlington	K-3
Thompson Elementary School	Arlington	K-5
Barnstable High School	Barnstable	8-12
Dante Alighieri Montessori School	East Boston	K-5
Joseph Lee School	Boston	6-8
Brookside Elementary School	Dracut	3
Monument Valley Regional Middle School	Great Barrington	7-8
Kingston Elementary School	Kingston	2
Johnny Appleseed School	Leominster	5
Bartlett Community Partnership School	Lowell	PreK-8
Martinson Elementary School	Marshfield	4
Greater New Bedford Vocational Tech. High School	New Bedford	9-12
Captain Samuel Brown School	Peabody	K-5
Rockport Middle School	Rockport	6-12
Witchcraft Heights Elementary School	Salem	4-5
The Grow School	Southbridge	K-12
Katharine Lee Bates Elementary School	Wellesley	K-5

2017-2018 Green Team Prize Winners

School Name	Community	Grade
Paul P. Gates, M.D. Elementary School	Acton	6
Andover West Middle School	Andover	6-8
Brackett Elementary School	Arlington	2-4
Oakmont Regional High School	Ashburnham	9-12
Swift River Elementary School	Belchertown	1-2
Bernardston Elementary School	Bernardston	K-3
Brighton High School	Boston	9-12
Andrew Peabody School	Cambridge	Junior K
Cohasset High School	Cohasset	9-12
Essex Agricultural & Technical High School	Danvers	9-12
Academy of Early Learning	Greenfield	PreK-K
Greenfield High School	Greenfield	8
Newton Elementary School	Greenfield	K-4
Hamilton - Wenham Reg. High School	Hamilton	9-12
NEARI School	Holyoke	5-12
Robert F Kennedy Childrens Action Corps EWT School	Holyoke	9-12
Memorial Middle School	Hull	6-8
Silver Lake Regional Middle School	Kingston	7
Robert Frost Middle School	Lawrence	5-8
St. Patrick School	Lowell	5
Stoklosa Middle School	Lowell	5-8
Mason Rice Elementary School	Newton	2-5
Mount Alvernia Academy	Newton	K-6
Northfield Elementary School	Northfield	2
Norwell Middle School	Norwell	6-8
South Shore Natural Science Center Preschool	Norwell	PreK
Norwood Montessori School	Norwood	PreK-10
Rockland Senior High School	Rockland	10-12
West Street School	Southbridge	5
STEM Middle Academy	Springfield	6-8
Swampscott Middle School	Swampscott	6-8
Joseph G. Luther Elementary School	Swansea	3
Whitin Elementary School	Uxbridge	3-5
Walpole KinderCare	Walpole	PreK
Warwick Community School	Warwick	5-6
Loker Elementary School	Wayland	3-5
West Brookfield Elementary School	West Brookfield	5
John R. Fausey Elementary School	West Springfield	2-5

Lincoln Elementary School	Winchester	4-5
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School	Yarmouth	8-12

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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