

August 2018 Newsletter

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"The Garden Club benefitted from these activities by learning about plants, healthy eating, and climate change. They developed an understanding of how food choices can impact climate change, as well as a basic understanding of what climate change is."

-Kelly Cronin, Teacher, Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, Salem

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Summer is rolling along, and here at THE GREEN TEAM, we are busily preparing for another exciting school year! [GREEN TEAM Classroom Kits](#) will be mailed in September, and [GREEN TEAM registration for the 2018-2019 school year](#) is now open! Remember, GREEN TEAM registrations do not carry over into the new school year, so you should [register](#) again even if you participated last year.

We have recycling equipment in stock at three locations throughout the state. To request [free recycling and composting equipment](#), please [register for the 2018-2019 school year](#) and submit a [recycling equipment application form](#). The Boston-area location will have three scheduled distribution dates during the 2018-2019 school year. The first will be September 27; there will also be distribution dates in November and April.

Equipment distribution from the Amherst and Pittsfield locations is scheduled by appointment. You will be provided with additional information upon approval of your equipment request.

New GREEN TEAM Virtual Library

We recently updated the [GREEN TEAM Virtual Library](#) to include additional [Books](#), [Videos](#), and [Curricula](#) focusing on a variety of environmental topics. The new user-friendly design makes it easier than ever to discover new resources to share with your students. You can filter your search by topic, grade level, year of publication, and more. Additionally, the entire library is available to download as a [spreadsheet](#). Check out the new [GREEN TEAM Virtual Library](#) today!

GREEN TEAM Virtual Library – Books

Use the filters below to view resources for a particular topic, grade, publication date, or genre. To download the full list of GREEN TEAM Virtual Library resources, [click here](#) (xls).

Topic(s) + Grade ▾ Year 1971 — 2017 ⋮

Genre +

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Topic(s)	Title	Author	Grade	Year	Genre	Pages	About	Physical Copy
Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Giddy Godspeed and the Felicity Flower	Maria-Pilar Landver	K-3	2017	Literature	38	Story of a flower and dreams with beautiful illustrations.	
Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Margarito's Forest	Andy Carter	K-5	2016	Literature	38	This is a story of Maya culture and wisdom passed from one generation to the next, which emphasizes the importance of caring for the environment, especially as climate change threatens the way we live.	

You can now easily search Books, Videos, and Curricula in THE GREEN TEAM Virtual Library and filter your search by topic, grade level, year of publication, and more!

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Whitin Elementary School in Uxbridge had a very busy year! They established a share table in their cafeteria, reducing food waste. Additionally, they requested GREEN TEAM recycling bins and wheeled carts for their classrooms and common spaces to help increase recycling. They also showed off their arts and crafts skills by using school-made compost to create recycled chia pets, and building a maker space in the school library that uses recycled materials. What a successful year!



Students at Whitin Elementary School established a share table in their cafeteria.

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 Greenfield Recorder](#) reported on a milestone achievement by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Twenty-five public schools in the county now divert all of their food and paper waste from cafeterias and kitchens into compost programs. Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Program Manager Amy Donovan reports that many schools have reduced kitchen and cafeteria waste by up to 90%! Way to go, Franklin County schools!

The US Department of Education's [Green Strides](#) newsletter reported on **Mendon-Upton Regional School District's** sustainability efforts. The District saves approximately \$132,000 annually by utilizing solar electricity and energy-efficient LED bulbs in every facility. Additionally, they use only green cleaning products. They have also partnered with Maple Farms Sanctuary in Mendon, and send food waste from the District's cafeterias to the farm to feed rescued farm animals. In recognition of their significant commitment to sustainability, Mendon-Upton Regional School District was named a [Green Ribbon School District](#) by the US Department of Education.

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!

August 4 – MassHorticulture's [Fall Planting Workshop](#). Attendees will learn about succession planting from Senior Horticulturist Hannah Traggis and will take home seedlings. You can register [here](#).

August 6 – Healthy Schools Campaign webinar: "Learn from the Leaders: Wellesley Public Schools." The Healthy Schools Campaign's [Green Clean Schools](#) initiative provides practical advice and resources to support sustainable school cleaning. This webinar will focus on the award-winning green cleaning program employed by Wellesley Public Schools and will include information from an expert on the use of on-site generation technology. Register [here](#).

August 6 – Registration opens for Keep America Beautiful's [Recycle-Bowl 2018](#). RecycleBowl is a friendly national recycling competition between K-12 schools, designed to help schools establish new recycling programs, increase recycling rates, and provide opportunities for education about recycling and waste reduction. You can register your school [here](#). Registration is open to all elementary, middle, and high schools in the United States, including private and charter schools.

August 22-23 – [Summer Institute for Teachers](#) at Harvard Forest. The Harvard Forest offers a forest ecology training institute for teachers of grades 2-12 to learn how to implement field studies of local ecosystems in their schoolyards. Topics include [Wooly Bully and the Hemlock Trees](#), [Buds, Leaves, and Global Warming](#), and [Our Changing Forests](#).

September 1 – Deadline for [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom Mini-Grant](#) applications. Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom awards mini-grants up to \$1,500 to Massachusetts educators, after-school programs, farms working with schools, and youth gardening organizations for agriculturally-based educational projects. Click [here](#) to apply.

September 1 – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation grants](#) for educators of grades 6-12, offering grants up to \$5,000. The Toshiba America Foundation awards grants to educators who are passionate about making mathematics and science more engaging for their students.

September 8 – Keep America Beautiful's [National Planting Day](#). This nationwide initiative encourages Americans to support local ecosystems by planting native species. [Create an account](#) to register your local planting event and make your town a little bit greener!

September 27 – Distribution day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. [Register](#) for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2018-2019 school year and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) to request equipment. There will also be distribution dates in November and April.

September 30 – Deadline to apply for [Project Learning Tree's Greenworks! Grants](#). Project Learning Tree offers grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world.

October 1 – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation grants](#) for educators of grades K-5, offering grants up to \$1,000. The Toshiba America Foundation awards grants to educators who are passionate about making mathematics and science more engaging for their students.

October 4 – Tenth annual [Green Careers Conference](#) at the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Westborough. This event showcases careers in sustainability, with stakeholders from the government, business, education, and non-profit sectors. Visit the [Green Careers Conference website](#) for more information.

October 12 – Registration deadline for Keep America Beautiful's [Recycle-Bowl 2018](#). You can register your school [here](#). The [competition](#) begins on October 15.

October 15 – [Recycle-Bowl 2018](#) competition begins. Schools will [track their recyclables](#) for four weeks during the competition, then submit their scores to be compared against their competitors. The competition ends November 15.

November 1 – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation grants](#) for educators of grades 6-12, for grants in excess of \$5,000. The Toshiba America Foundation awards grants to educators who are passionate about making mathematics and science more engaging for their students.

November 15 – Keep America Beautiful's [America Recycles Day](#). Take action in your community by taking part in a local event on this nationally-recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. [Find a local event](#) or register your own!

November 15 – [Recycle-Bowl 2018](#) competition ends. Schools must [report their data](#) by December 14, 2018. Winners will be announced in February 2019.

Other Resources

[RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts](#) recently updated its [Food Waste Estimator Tool](#) to include new data for elementary, middle, and high schools. This tool helps schools estimate the amount of food waste they generate before implementing a food waste diversion program.

Purdue University Extension recently released [What a Waste of Food! Lesson Plans and PowerPoint](#) to help teachers educate students about food waste and how they can help reduce it. Students will learn about proper food storage, best-by dates, and that ugly food can still be wholesome. [Download this free kit](#) to share with your students when they return in the fall!

It's not too early to [request recycling and composting equipment](#) or [idling reduction signs and materials](#) for the 2018-2019 school year! Remember to water your compost bin during dry spells to keep those decomposers thriving!

We look forward to kicking off another great year of THE GREEN TEAM when your students return!

Emily Fabel

GREEN TEAM Program Administrator

You are receiving this e-mail because you are part of THE GREEN TEAM.

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