

October 2018 Newsletter

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“Through these projects, students connect with the importance of making good choices about the place where we live, no matter how small those choices may be. Students who work on service learning projects see their work ‘come to life’. They are able to see the results of their efforts and often can collect real data to measure their success. The community outreach projects form bonds between our school, the home, and the community.”

- Diane Bugler, Teacher, Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School, Peabody

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Welcome to the more than [140 teachers](#) who have already registered for THE GREEN TEAM this school year! We are in the process of assembling [GREEN TEAM Classroom Kits](#). You should receive your kit in the next few weeks.

Now that you are registered, you can request [FREE recycling and composting equipment](#) and [idling reduction signs and materials](#) for your schools! The next collection date for equipment in Boston will be November 16, with an application deadline of November 9.

Equipment is available on an ongoing basis from the Amherst and Pittsfield locations. Distributions are scheduled by appointment. You will be provided with additional information upon approval of your equipment request.

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical School in New Bedford used THE GREEN TEAM prize they won last year (a garden center gift card) to enhance their rain and butterfly garden with a diverse array of indigenous plants. They also purchased peat moss and perlite to add to their school-made compost, and seeds to germinate for their annual plant sale. Proceeds from the plant sale help fund student environmental projects and green career licensure exams.



*Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical School students
in their rain and butterfly garden.*

Throughout the school year, send us photos and stories about the great work you are doing to share in [THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) and [THE GREEN TEAM Spotlight](#)! Be sure to check out these links to view all of the great activities THE GREEN TEAM schools completed last year.

GREEN TEAM in the Media

BioCycle reported on the [successful implementation of cafeteria food and paper waste diversion programs](#) in 33 of the 35 schools in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management district. Three of the schools have on-site food waste composting programs, and the nutrient-rich compost is used in school gardens!

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!

October 3 – Second annual [Massachusetts Farm to School Awareness Day](#) at the Massachusetts State House. Join fellow farm to school advocates and partners from around the Commonwealth to celebrate all things farm to school.

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.

October 4 – Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant [informational webinar](#). Learn about the application process for the Garden Grant and ask questions in real time before the October 15 submission deadline.

October 10 – [International Walk to School Day](#). Join thousands of students from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and more than 40 countries, walking and biking to school on the same day!

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 13 – Project Learning Tree's [PreK-K Curriculum Workshop](#) in North Easton. The curriculum develops awareness, engages critical thinking skills, and promotes constructive action. [Register](#) by October 6.

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 the competitors. The competition ends November 15.

October 15 – [Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant](#) application deadline. This program provides \$2,000 monetary grants to K-12 schools and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. [Register here](#) for an informational webinar that will be held on October 4.

October 15 – Last day of Early Bird Registration for the [Massachusetts Farm and Sea to School Conference](#), being held December 6 in Leominster.

October 16-18 – [Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association Fall Conference](#) in Hyannis. This conference aims to help facilities professionals continue their professional growth with a focus on providing safer, healthier, and more sustainable learning environments for staff and students.

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

November 1-2 – [2018 Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers Conference](#) in Boxborough. This year's theme is Sustainable Science. On November 2 at 11:00 AM, MassDEP's Ann McGovern will present a session on "Composting at School for Sustainability and Science."

November 5 – [International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest](#) entry deadline. This year's theme is "Cool the Climate – Compost!" The winning artist will receive a \$500 prize, and the poster will be used to promote [International Compost Awareness Week](#) from May 5-11, 2019. The contest is open to ages 10 and up, and the winning design will be chosen before the end of the year.

November 9 – Deadline to submit THE GREEN TEAM [recycling equipment application](#) for the November 16 distribution day to be held in Boston. ([Equipment requests](#) for the Amherst and Pittsfield equipment locations may be submitted at any time).

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 the spring.

November 16 – [Distribution day](#) for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. Register for [THE GREEN TEAM](#) and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) by November 9 for this distribution. The next Boston-area distribution will be held in April.

December 6 – Massachusetts Farm to School's [Farm & Sea to School Conference](#). This year's theme is "Setting the Table: Communities Creating Change." The conference seeks to amplify traditionally

underrepresented voices in the Massachusetts food system and identify strategies and resources for promoting racial equity and social justice. Early Bird Registration ends October 15.

Other Resources

The National Resources Council of Maine has released a [School Food Recovery Handbook](#) to help schools implement successful food waste reduction programs. Though written for a Maine audience, many of the lessons are applicable for schools across the nation.

[Every Kid in a Park](#) is running again this year! It is a National Park Service program offering free passes to national parks for fourth graders for the 2018-2019 school year. [Click here](#) to learn how it works.

Thank you for joining THE GREEN TEAM again this school year!

Megan Denardo
GREEN TEAM Program Administrator

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

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