

## November 2018 Newsletter

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Presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

*"Our school benefits from the activities because these efforts are beginning to be part of what the students do naturally. Hopefully these kinds of activities will spill over to their lives outside of the school atmosphere."*

- Ms. Martha Burkett, Teacher at The Grow School, Southbridge, MA

Happy November GREEN TEAM teachers! Can you believe we are already talking about Thanksgiving plans? With the school year in full swing, there is no better time to incorporate Green Team lesson plans into your classroom.

We are happy to have more than 180 teachers registered for the GREEN TEAM so far this year! Many of you have recently received your [GREEN TEAM Classroom Kits](#), filled with activities and lesson plans to engage your students in environmental issues. If you registered recently, you should receive your GREEN TEAM kit soon!

All registered GREEN TEAM teachers can request [free recycling and composting equipment](#) and [idling reduction signage](#). If you are in the Boston area, make sure to submit a Green Team recycling equipment application by November 9 in order to pick up your materials at our equipment distribution day on November 16.

Equipment is available on an ongoing basis from the Amherst and Pittsfield locations. Distributions are

scheduled by appointment, and you will be provided with additional information upon approval of your equipment request.

### **Featured Event: Responsible Management of School Furniture**

Is your school planning for a building remodel, move, or new furniture delivery? Wondering what to do with those unwanted desks, tables, chairs, cabinets, and shelves? Join the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Operational Services Division (OSD), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) on **Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM** at Field Elementary School in Weston for the [Trash to Treasure: Responsible Management of School Furniture](#) workshop. Attendees will learn about environmentally responsible, cost-effective strategies for handling surplus school furniture.

Please [click here to learn more and to register](#). There are a limited number of spots due to limited guest parking at the school, so register early if you plan to attend. If you cannot participate in person, you can register to attend remotely through this webinar [link](#). Note: This workshop is eligible for MCPPO recertification credits.

### **GREEN TEAM Spotlight**

Fourth Grade students at **Centerville Elementary** in Beverly repurposed milk cartons into planting pots. Students also planted basil in the repurposed cartons and sold them at the school's farm stand. Proceeds from the plant sale went to fund student environmental projects for the new school year.



*Centerville Elementary School students selling basil plants  
in repurposed milk cartons.*

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**

*Patch.com* featured an article on the [recycling and composting pilot program](#) recently launched at four **Somerville schools**. The schools installed recycling bins and compost receptacles, as well as buckets for draining liquids from bottles.

The *Worcester Telegram* reported on a [Shrewsbury student effort to ban Styrofoam](#). Four students from **Shrewsbury High School** sponsored a citizen-petition article to ban Styrofoam containers from local food establishments and town facilities. Styrofoam is a non-biodegradable material which often ends up in landfills and emits dangerous chemicals that can leach into food when heated.

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!

**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 3** – Deadline for submitting a workshop proposal for the [2019 Massachusetts Environmental Education Society Conference](#) on March 6 in Worcester.

**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. Registered 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.

**November 29** – EPA Webinar, [Examining the Evidence: How School Buildings Influence Student Health, Thinking, and Performance](#), features a discussion with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health on indoor air quality, student health, thinking, and performance. You can register for the event [here](#).

**December 1** – Application deadline for the [Safer School Garden Grant](#). Schools can apply for a \$500 grant to fund starting a school garden. Winners will be notified no later than February 1.

**December 4** – Application deadline for the USDA's [Farm to School Grant Program](#). Schools and school districts can apply for planning or implementation grants to start or expand a farm to school program.

**December 5** – Learn about the responsible, cost-effective disposal of surplus school furniture at the [Trash to Treasure: Responsible Management of School Furniture](#) workshop in Weston, sponsored by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

**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.

**December 17** – Application deadline for the [2019 Youth Garden Grant](#). Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youths between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply. A total of 25 programs will be awarded a variety of gardening tools and supplies as well as cash awards up to \$1000. Awards will be distributed in February 2019.

**January 15** – Application deadline for the [Captain Planet Foundation's ecoSolution](#) Grants. Grants of up to \$2,500 are available to help support environment-focused, project-based activities performed by young people.

#### **Other Resources**

Keep America Beautiful [offers a toolkit](#) for America Recycles Day on November 15 that includes event ideas, projects, trainings, and customizable templates for posters, media materials, proclamations, and activities you can use to promote recycling awareness, commitment, and action in your community. America Recycles Day banners, pencils and other giveaways [can be ordered here](#).

We hope THE GREEN TEAM's resources will help empower your students to recycle, compost, and become great environmental stewards!

**Megan Denardo**  
**GREEN TEAM Program Administrator**