



December 2018 Newsletter

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"We held our annual Cradles to Crayons gently used and new kids clothing collection drive and did very well collecting lots of materials for needy children. Students in the environmental club donated 200 coats to support children in need."

- Jessica Lazarus, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, Bridgewater

Season's Greetings GREEN TEAM Teachers!

We are excited to have more than 230 teachers on the GREEN TEAM so far this year! We hope that you will [register for the GREEN TEAM](#) and join our network of educators working hard to teach students to respect and protect the environment!

The GREEN TEAM provides an assortment of resources to help you plan lessons and activities that engage students with important environmental issues. The following educational materials are just a few of the items available in The GREEN TEAM kits mailed to all participants:

- The [Slash Trash Lesson](#) and [Report](#), which encourage students to track waste disposal at home as they identify and implement new waste reduction activities.
- The [Clean Air Activities](#), which empower students to improve air quality around their schools by creating an idle-free zone.

- The [Climate Change Activities](#), which teach students about the concepts of global warming and climate change and ask them to identify and track opportunities to conserve energy or reduce pollution at home and at school.

Collect and Donate Textiles This Holiday Season!

According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Massachusetts residents and businesses throw away nearly a quarter-million tons of clothing, shoes, and other textiles each year! If you are looking for a green way to celebrate the holiday season at school, consider textile reuse as a theme. There are a number of donation programs that can help deliver unwanted items from your school community to people who need them:

- Register to be a [Coats for Kids](#) collection site. Anton's Cleaners collects, cleans, and distributes over 60,000 coats each year.
- Host a [Cradles to Crayons Drive](#) and collect items like children's clothing, sneakers, & baby books. Cradles to Crayons partners with social service organizations to provide these resources to children ages 0 to 12.
- Install a [Bay State Textiles](#) or [Helpsy](#) collection box in your parking lot, or organize a [Baq2School](#) collection. All of these programs help your school raise money in exchange for the textiles you collect.

To learn more about textile recovery visit the [MassDEP Textile Recovery](#) page for fact sheets, resources in your community, and other information.

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

GREEN TEAM students at the **John A. Bishop Elementary School** in Arlington created an instructional video sharing recycling tips. The students do a wonderful job demonstrating how their school uses collection bins for recyclables, used textiles, and food scraps. The pollinator garden and recycled material art projects are particularly impressive!



John A. Bishop Elementary School students sharing recycling tips

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

Wicked Local Wellesley recently published an article on the [recycling and food waste reduction](#) initiatives in **Wellesley Public Schools**. Members of the Wellesley Green Schools group created the [SMART](#) (Sustainable Materials and Reduced Trash) event guide, which offers simple ways to cut costs and reduce waste during school events. Wellesley Schools also use Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's [roving water fountain](#) at events instead of disposable water bottles.

Western Mass News described a Longmeadow student effort to [institute a single use plastic bag ban bylaw](#) in their town. A group of sixth grade students who met while attending **Center Elementary School** helped educate the community on the harmful environmental effects of plastic bags through a series of presentations to the PTO, School Committee, and Town Selectman. Their effort helped pass a new bylaw banning single-use plastic bags from the town.

[The Daily News](#) reported on the Newburyport based organization, Nourishing the North Shore, which recently kicked off the third year of its [School Food Recovery program](#). The volunteer-driven program collects excess food from the **Newburyport School District** and delivers it to the Newbury Food Pantry.

Sentinel & Enterprise described how the **Leominster School District** [installed textile collection boxes](#) at each Leominster Public School. Bay State Textiles picks up donated clothing, linens, and other fabrics, paying the schools a rebate of 5 cents per pound, which goes toward the Leominster Education Foundation.

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!

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 7 – Close of Applicant Webinar [Registration](#) for the [MassCEC Clean Energy Activity Day](#) program.

December 12 – The [MassCEC Clean Energy Activity Day](#) applicant webinar. This webinar will address any questions related to the Clean Energy Activity Day solicitation. For further program information, please refer to the other resources section below.

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 is eligible to apply. The garden must serve at least 15 youths between the ages of 3 and 18. 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.

December 21 – Application deadline for the Mass Audubon's 2019 [Young Leaders for Climate Justice Program](#). Teams of 3-12 high school students can apply to participate in a semester long environmental leadership training and civic action project. The program initiates with a day-long Climate Learning Intensive to be held at Drumlin Farm on January 26.

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.

January 31 – The Museum Institute for Teaching Science (MITS) will be offering a [Professional Development Seminar Series](#) designed for education staff, volunteers, and other professionals from science, environmental, natural history, technology, art, history, and other cultural institutions in New England. The first full day seminar, **Making Connections with Science**, is on January 31 and will feature sessions on **Carbon, Climate, and Consensus** as well as **Setting up Seasonal Nature Journals**.

February 22 – Submission deadline for [World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest](#). Students must create a short video about human population growth that highlights a global challenge.

February 28 – The [Museum Institute for Teaching Science Professional Development Seminar Series](#) second full day seminar, **Learning From our Cities**, will feature sessions on **Exploring the Ecology of Our Cities and Towns** and **Enhancing Your Audience Engagement with Local Biodiversity**.

March 6 – [Massachusetts Environmental Education Society \(MEES\) 2018 Conference](#). The MEES conference brings together environmental educators from across the state to network and learn new skills.

March 21 – The [Museum Institute for Teaching Science Professional Development Seminar Series](#) third full day seminar, **Science Story Tellers**, will feature sessions on **New England: the Origins of American Environmentalism** and **Integrating STEM and the Humanities: A Role Playing Game**.

March 26 – [MassRecycle R3 Conference](#). The R3 Conference is the biggest annual recycling and organics conference in Massachusetts, and one of the biggest state conferences in the nation. At R3, MassRecycle fosters discussion on issues that affect recycling, reuse, and waste reduction, and

provides a venue to convene individuals from all sectors.

April 25 – The [Museum Institute for Teaching Science Professional Development Seminar Series](#) fourth full day seminar, **Science on the Brain**, will feature a full day session entitled **Mind on Brains: Making the Connection**.

Other Resources

Check out the [New England Aquarium](#) programs and resources for schools, including information on aquarium field trips, traveling education, and programs specifically geared for teens.

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) is requesting proposals for the [Clean Energy Activity Day](#). The program is designed to introduce Massachusetts students in Kindergarten through 8th grade to clean energy concepts, career opportunities, and higher-education pathways through one day educational events. Applicants propose a one-day specialized Clean Energy Activity Day that features hands-on activities as well as guest speakers from a clean energy business. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funding has reached its maximum capacity. MassCEC anticipates awarding up to ten "Clean Energy Activity Day" events per year, up to \$10,000 per application.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year!

Megan Denardo
GREEN TEAM Program Administrator