



February 2019 Newsletter



"Students feel empowered to make positive changes that protect and preserve the environment."

- Elizabeth Rocco, Thompson Elementary School, Arlington

Dear GREEN TEAM Teacher,

More than 61,000 students from 254 schools across Massachusetts are participating in THE GREEN TEAM so far this school year! See the [Participating Schools](#) list if you'd like to network with other teachers in your area.

We look forward to hearing about what your students have been doing when you send in your Teacher Response Form (TRF). **Submit your TRF [online](#) or mail in the [printable version](#) by March 31** so your students can receive prizes to recognize their work.

MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grant Awardees

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) provides grant funding to improve local recycling, composting, reuse, and hazardous waste diversion programs. Congratulations to the following municipalities that were awarded Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grants for school recycling equipment and implementation assistance in 2019:

- New Bedford
- North Andover

- Stoneham

MassDEP accepts applications for SMRP grants between early April and mid-June. Visit the [MassDEP SMRP Grant webpage](#) to learn how to apply.

Visit The Great Exchange for Supplies and Savings

[The Great Exchange](#) at Devens Eco Efficiency Center has expanded its low-cost inventory and will now open its two locations in Devens from **8:30am-4:30pm during the last two Thursdays of each month**. The Great Exchange prevents waste by rescuing excess items, and provides discounted prices on supplies for schools and not-for-profit entities.

- The location at [33 Andrews Parkway](#) is stocked with classroom, craft, janitorial, office, and safety supplies for the low cost of 60¢ per pound, with larger items priced differently. The next Great Exchange at this location is **February 21**.
- The [100 Sherman Avenue](#) location is filled with new and gently used bookcases, chairs, tables, file cabinets, janitorial items, shelving units, waste bins, white/bulletin boards, and more, all available for less than half their value. The next Great Exchange at this location is **February 28**.

Mark your calendar to save at The Great Exchange on February 21 and 28. Contact Dona at donaneely@ecostardevens.com or **978-772-8831 x3304** to learn more.



Teachers from Quaboag Regional School gained 110 pounds of resources from The Great Exchange during a recent visit

Massachusetts Safe Routes to Schools Yard Sign Design Contest

The [Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program](#) (SRTS), through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), partners with public elementary and middle schools to promote and increase safe walking and biking. Through a collaborative, community-focused approach, utilizing the six E's—education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, engineering, and equity—the SRTS Program helps bridge the gap between health and transportation for over 850 schools in more than 200 communities across Massachusetts.

The **2019 Student Yard Sign Design Contest** invites students from SRTS partner schools in grades 2-8 to create yard signs that will be distributed to schools around the Commonwealth. This year, students are asked to submit yard signs that stress the importance of anti-idling around schools. The focus should be on reducing pollution and making a healthier environment by encouraging parents and caregivers to turn off their vehicle's engine when waiting to drop off or pick up their child at school. Entries are due by **March 16th**. Visit the [Massachusetts Safe Routes to School website](#) for registration forms and more details.

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Students from the **Albert S. Woodward Memorial School** in Southborough performed an audit of their school's waste. The students examined each trash bin and removed all recyclables that were mistakenly discarded in the trash. To help educate their peers on which items are recyclable, the students [created a video](#) sharing the results of the audit. The video was a hit on the school's morning broadcast. Nice work GREEN TEAM!

Click the Image Below to View the Video!



Students from the Albert S. Woodward Memorial School created a video sharing the results of their Waste Audit

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!](#)

GREEN TEAM in the Media

A recent story on Boston's public radio station, *WBUR*, described the [Chefs in Schools](#) program that temporarily joined the cafeteria staff of **Parthum Elementary School** in Lawrence. Local chefs helped the staff develop healthy and delicious recipes for their school's lunch menu. The students enjoy the nutritious food they are served, which helps decrease food waste in the lunch room.

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!

February 6 – The Massachusetts Safe Routes to School annual [Winter Walk and Roll to School Day](#). Students and families across Massachusetts are encouraged to walk and bike to school to practice safe pedestrian habits and reduce their environmental impact.

February 15 – Application deadline for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's [Summer Planning Grant](#).

February 21 – The [Massachusetts Horticultural Society's School Garden Conference](#) in Wellesley will feature workshops that explore regional best practices for planning and running a school garden. Attending educators will develop practical gardening skills, including techniques for managing worm composting. Free worms provided, courtesy of THE GREEN TEAM!

February 21 – Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, to gain classroom, craft, janitorial, office, and safety supplies. The Great Exchange is open to schools on the last two Thursdays of each month, with supplies available for an average of 40% of their value.

February 28 – 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 Wade Institute for Science Education's [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**.

February 28 – Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 100 Sherman Avenue, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, for classroom fixtures, office furniture, and janitorial items at very low prices.

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. THE GREEN TEAM will be in the exhibit area, so come by to say hello and check out what's new!

March 15 – Register a school sustainability project with the [Green Apple Day of Service](#) by March 15 to be eligible for a mini-grant and Green Apple Award. Projects should bring school community service and environmental sustainability together in one day of action.

March 16 – Entries are due for the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School's (SRTS) [Yard Sign Design Contest](#). Students should submit yard signs that stress the importance of anti-idling around schools. Four winners will be chosen, and the winning designs will be made into yard signs for distribution to partner schools around the Commonwealth.

March 21 – The Wade Institute for Science Education's [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 21 – Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, to gain classroom, craft, janitorial, office, and safety supplies at very low prices.

March 25 – [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.

March 25 – Application deadline for the 2019 [Carton 2 Garden Contest](#). Contest winners will be selected based on their implementation of an innovative garden creation featuring creative and sustainable uses of repurposed milk and juice cartons.

March 28 – Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 100 Sherman Avenue, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, for classroom fixtures, office furniture, and janitorial items very low prices.

March 29 – Deadline to submit THE GREEN TEAM [recycling equipment application](#) for the April 4 distribution day to be held in Boston. (Equipment requests for the Amherst and Pittsfield equipment locations may be submitted at any time).

March 29 – Deadline for submitting a description of an outstanding environmental project, team, or individual for Project Green School's annual [Green Difference Awards](#). The award honors and recognizes outstanding environmental education and STEM education efforts in schools and communities at the Annual Green Difference Awards at the Massachusetts State House on May 10.

March 30 – Deadline for sending in nominations for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) [2019 Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education](#).

March 31 – Deadline to submit THE GREEN TEAM [Teacher Response Form](#) to report your students' activities and receive a Certificate of Recognition and student prizes to recognize their work.

March 31 – Jr. Tech [2019 Girls STEM Summit](#) at the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. This is a one-day statewide summit for young women in grades 8-12 who love STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering & Math, and would like to learn more about emerging careers in these fields.

April 4 – [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 March 29 for this distribution.

April 18 – Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, to gain classroom, craft, janitorial, office, and safety supplies at very low prices.

April 22 – [Earth Day](#) – In 1970, the first year of Earth Day, the movement gave voice to an emerging consciousness, channeling human energy toward environmental issues. The theme of Earth Day this year is "Protect Our Species."

April 25 - Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 100 Sherman Avenue, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, for classroom fixtures, office furniture, and janitorial items very low prices.

April 25 – The Wade Institute for Science Education's [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**.

April 26 – Submission deadline for the Massachusetts Marine Educators [2019 Marine Art Contest](#). Students in grades K-12 are invited to submit a piece of original artwork focusing on this year's theme, "Revealing the Biodiversity of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary."

April 27 – Keep Massachusetts Beautiful's [2019 Great Massachusetts Cleanup](#). Join with your neighbors, friends, family, and co-workers to clean up and beautify your neighborhood or community.

May 17 – [Massachusetts Envirothon 2019](#). Save the date for this year's Massachusetts Envirothon, at Sholan Farms in Leominster. The 2019 Current Issue is "[Abundant, Affordable, Healthy Food](#)".

May 23 – Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, to gain classroom, craft, janitorial, office, and safety supplies at very low prices.

May 30 - Visit [The Great Exchange](#), 100 Sherman Avenue, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, for classroom fixtures, office furniture, and janitorial items very low prices.

Other Resources

The World Wildlife Fund recently published the [Food Waste Warrior](#) curriculum, which was developed as an educational toolkit for teachers to raise awareness of food waste and its environmental impacts.

'[STRAWS](#)' is a new 30 minute educational documentary film that raises awareness of the history and harm caused by single-use plastic straws. The film discusses how it's possible to eliminate this

environmental threat through the use of sustainable alternatives. It celebrates groups that are reducing their use of single-use plastics and inspires people to make a difference, one small choice at a time.

Longwood Gardens offers free [Virtual Field Trips](#) through live interactive video with their educators! Advance [registration](#) (at least two weeks before program date) is required.

Project Green Schools is partnering with Massachusetts' award-winning Piti Theatre Company to bring their internationally acclaimed musical K-6 performance "[To Bee or Not to Bee](#)" to approximately 15-20 schools during the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, contact the Piti Theatre Company at booking@ptco.org.

THE GREEN TEAM hopes you have fun preparing for your spring environmental activities!

Megan Denardo
Green Team Program Administrator