



"The students learned environmental concepts themselves and also felt empowered by changing behavior in their community."

- Abby Wark, Lincoln Elementary School, Winchester

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

If you have not yet registered for THE GREEN TEAM 2018-2019 school year (registration does not carry over from one year to the next), it's not too late to register! [Register now](#) so you can submit a Teacher Response Form (TRF) reporting the environmental activities your students have been doing. **Submit your [TRF](#) online or mail in the [printable version](#) by March 31** so your students can receive prizes and recognition for their work.

The next pickup day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment from the West Roxbury location is set for Thursday, April 4. For schools in the eastern part of the state, please submit an [equipment request](#) by **March 29** to pick up equipment from West Roxbury this spring.

Clean Air Information, Activities, and Resources

THE GREEN TEAM offers a variety of resources that can help teachers discuss the important concept of air quality, and its potential environmental and health impacts, with their students.

- THE GREEN TEAM [Clean Air Activities](#) and accompanying [Idling Reduction Pledge](#) are a great starting point. This pair of resources empowers students to help reduce air pollution at school and in the community.
- THE GREEN TEAM can also provide your school with free idling reduction materials, including newly redesigned signs! To receive these materials, you must be registered for THE GREEN TEAM for this school year, and submit an [Idling Reduction Request Form](#).

- The [MassDEP Air Quality Info Sheet](#) provides information about the health and environmental effects of air pollution, as well as links to additional resources.
- The EPA [School Indoor Air Quality Assessment Tool](#) can help your school address critical building-related environmental health issues such as ventilation, environmental asthma triggers, and radon. It can also help schools develop, sustain, or reinvigorate their Indoor Air Quality management programs.

Great Massachusetts Cleanup

Keep Massachusetts Beautiful is hosting its annual [Great Massachusetts Cleanup](#) on Saturday, April 27. Each spring, Keep Massachusetts Beautiful encourages volunteers across the state to organize litter cleanups, park maintenance projects, tree planting, and other community service events. This is a great opportunity to work together with your students and co-workers to create a cleaner, greener environment in your community.

Last year, more than more than 7,000 volunteers worked across the state, collecting more than 132 tons of litter. Great Massachusetts Cleanup events can also be scheduled for any time of the year. No matter when you schedule your cleanup events, please be sure to [register your event](#) on the Keep Massachusetts Beautiful website and [report your results](#).



GREEN TEAM Spotlight

GREEN TEAM students from the **St. Patrick School** in Lowell created animal puppets from items that would have otherwise gone to the trash. What a great way to repurpose existing materials into works of art!



Students from the St. Patrick School created artistic animal puppets from upcycled materials.

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

Wicked Local featured an article on the [recent renovation](#) of **Winchester High School**, which achieved a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold sustainability certification. In the past year, the high school used 26 percent less natural gas than the building did prior to the renovation.

Hometown Weekly reported on the [2019 Wellesley Sustainability Challenge](#) for K-12 students who are Wellesley residents or enrolled in the **Wellesley Public School** system. This challenge asks students to work on a project promoting a local resource, policy, or behavior change that makes Wellesley greener. This can be in the form of an advertisement, op-ed or essay, video commercial, infographic, poem, music, or another form of audio/visual artwork. Visit the 2019 Wellesley Sustainability Challenge [webpage](#) to learn more and to submit entries before the March 15 deadline.

If your school is covered in the local media, let us know and we'll add it to in [THE GREEN TEAM in the Media!](#)

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

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 15 – Submission deadline for the Wellesley Education Foundation's [2019 Sustainability Challenge](#). Students in grades K-12 who are Wellesley residents or enrolled in the Wellesley Public School system are invited to submit a creative project promoting a local resource, policy or behavior change that makes Wellesley greener.

March 16 – Entries are due for 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 22-23 – The Wade Institute for Science Education's 2-day [Sustainable Energy Workshop](#), **Lighting the Way with Wind and Solar: Pathways to a Sustainable Energy Future**, for middle and high school educators.

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 Ave, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, for classroom fixtures, office furniture, and janitorial items at 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 1 – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom [mini-grant proposals](#) deadline to fund agriculture education projects in Massachusetts schools

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 15 – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom [Meet a Local Farmer](#) video contest deadline. Students from Elementary to High School are encouraged to make a video of an interview with a local farmer. A total prize of \$2,000 will be divided among 4 winning entries.

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 Ave, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, for classroom fixtures, office furniture, and janitorial items at 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 Ave, Devens, 8:30am-4:30pm, for classroom fixtures, office furniture, and janitorial items at very low prices.

Other Resources

The **Massachusetts Toxic Use Reduction Institute (TURI)** recently released a [report](#) on selecting safer alternatives for athletic playing fields. The report provides information based on TURI's research on selected materials that are preferable for human health and the environment.

Visit **Science by Connection's** [online program directory](#) to find STEM field trips, field studies, in-school, and online programs for classrooms, as well as professional development opportunities for educators. This free website provides a comprehensive, searchable database of STEM program providers across Massachusetts.

The University of Massachusetts, Amherst is accepting registrations for its [Summer Pre-College](#)

[Programs](#). This opportunity offers over 25 residential academic programs for ambitious high school students, as well as 6-week Research Intensives that place students in labs with faculty. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and the 2019 [academic programs schedule](#) is now available.

We look forward to receiving your [Teacher Response Form](#) and hearing about the environmental projects your students have been working on this year!

Megan Denardo
Green Team Program Administrator
