

June 2019 Newsletter



"We are excited to sign up again this year and hope to take advantage of some of the resources you have to help our school to launch our program. Thank you!"

- Rachael Kinnaeley, Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, Boston

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Congratulations on all the wonderful environmental activities you and your students completed this year! We have posted the full list of [GREEN TEAM activities accomplished at schools](#) across the state. Your work and results reported are amazing and inspiring! And check out the new photos in the [GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) and stories in the [GREEN TEAM Spotlight](#) to see some of our amazing GREEN TEAM students in action!

We received 72 Teacher Response Forms, describing an impressive array of activities across Massachusetts. Many schools are collecting textiles for donation and recycling, designing clothing and art from recyclables, separating food scraps in their cafeterias for composting, expanding recycling programs, planting school gardens, and starting compost bins! Students are learning about climate change, energy sources, air quality, endangered species, reducing waste, and most importantly, that their actions make a positive difference in their school and community.

Certificates and prizes have been awarded and were mailed last week to all schools that submitted a Teacher Response Form. A total of 17 GREEN TEAM Grand Prize winners were selected and will receive a recycling show or garden supplies for their school. Click [here](#) for the complete list of all GREEN TEAM prize winners. Watch for the press release MassDEP will issue soon, highlighting your accomplishments!

2018 - 2019 GREEN TEAM Grand Prize Winners

School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	GREEN TEAM Prize
James Clark Elementary School	Agawam	Tammy Rumprik	K-4	Garden Supplies
Amesbury Elementary School	Amesbury	Bruce McBrien	K-4	Garden Supplies
Thompson Elementary School	Arlington	Elizabeth Rocco	K-5	Recycling Show
Oakmont Regional High School	Ashburnham	Alana Archangelo	9-12	Garden Supplies
Swift River Elementary School	Belchertown	Cindy Fournier	1-3	Garden Supplies
Ellison Parks Early Education Center	Boston	Donnie Lucente	K-3	Recycling Show
Andrew Peabody School	Cambridge	Leslie Williams-Dunn	K	Recycling Show
Mount Alvernia Academy	Chestnut Hill	Maria Lyons	PreK-6	Recycling Show
Agawam Junior High School	Feeding Hills	Sandee Johnson	7	Recycling Show
Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan Elementary School	Holyoke	Rick Haggerty	6-8	Recycling Show
Robert Frost Middle School	Lawrence	Paul Flanigan	5-6	Garden Supplies
Bartlett Community Partnership School	Lowell	Joanne Downing	PreK-8	Recycling Show
Manchester Essex Regional Middle/High School	Manchester	Keith Gray	9-12	Garden Supplies
South Shore Natural Science Center Preschool	Norwell	Diane Thureson	PreK-K	Recycling Show
Captain Samuel Brown School	Peabody	Diane Bugler	K-5	Garden Supplies
Joseph G. Luther Elementary School	Swansea	Scott Sunaz-Lods & Lindsay Poirier	3-5	Garden Supplies
Rose L. MacDonald School	West Bridgewater	Jeremy Dempsey	1-5	Recycling Show



GREEN TEAM staff cheerfully assembling prize packages

Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education

On May 6, at the Massachusetts State House, 32 energy and environmental education programs at Massachusetts schools and nonprofits were honored as part of the [25th Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education](#).

Winners competed for \$5,000 in awards, funded by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, with the intention to fund further environmental education initiatives at the schools. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) solicited the Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Award nominations in early 2019. Schools and organizations that voluntarily incorporate environmental education into public or private school curricula are given priority.

Congratulations to the following GREEN TEAM participants who were honored for their environmental efforts during the 2018-2019 school year:

- **Arlington Public Schools** – *“Rachel Oliveri - Sustainability Coordinator for Arlington GREEN TEAMS”*, Grades K-12
- **Thompson Elementary School** – *“Which Way for Water Podcast - Lauren D’Intino and students”*, Grade 5
- **Thompson Elementary School** – *“All School Green Team and Principal Karen Donato,”* Grades K-5
- **Oakmont Regional High School** – *“Oakmont Environmental Association,”* Grades 9-12
- **Hawlemont Regional Elementary School** – *“HAY (Hawlemont, Agriculture and You),”* Grades PreK-6
- **Holten Richmond Middle School** – *“Stormwater Education Project,”* Grade 6 Art Students
- **Leicester High School**– *“The Ort Report - LHS Environmental Club/Green Team,”* Grades 9-12
- **Maynard High School** – *“Green Committee and Faculty Advisor - Rochelle Lerner,”* Grades 9-12
- **Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech High School** – *“Environmental Engineering Program,”* Grades 9-12
- **Mason-Rice Elementary School** – *“Green Team Kids,”* Grades, 3-5
- **Nauset Regional High School** – *“Luke Simpson - Marine & Environment Sciences Program,”* Grades 9-12
- **Captain Samuel Brown School** – *“Brown School Goes Greener,”* Grades K-5
- **Norfolk County Agricultural High School** – *“Environmental Science,”* Grades 9-12

- **West Bridgewater School District** – “Jeremy Dempsey - *STEAM Educator,*” Grades K-6

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Students from **Quabbin Regional High School** participated in this year’s Massachusetts Envirothon, which had a theme of “[Abundant, Affordable, and Healthy Food](#)” for 2019. The students explored this topic by learning about the benefits of composting for soil health. They restarted their school composting program and educated their classmates on which materials should be included in the compost bin. The students earned an [Envirothon Community Award](#) for their work turning their research into a community action project.

The recent press release on the results of the [2019 Massachusetts Envirothon](#) provides a full recap of this year’s competition, including a list of this year’s top scoring teams. Congratulations to the students of Quabbin Regional High School, as well as all of the participants of the Envirothon!



Quabbin Regional High School Students demonstrating which materials should be included in the compost bin

Students at **Hull Memorial Middle School** have been working hard to spread the word about source reduction of plastic and organic waste. The GREEN TEAM students established a share table program in their school cafeteria, which involved creating a poster explaining the importance of not wasting food and how the share table can help reduce the amount of organic waste being discarded. They are also

advocating for the establishment of a single-use plastic bag ban in the town of Hull. The students handed out informational flyers at a central location in town about the importance of a single-use plastic bag ban.



Hull Memorial Middle School students showing off their reusable grocery bags during their presentation on banning single-use plastic bags

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](#) reported on the **Ipswich High School and Middle School** GREEN TEAM students that are inspiring climate action throughout their town. Sustainability scholars at the schools have successfully introduced and helped pass plastic bag and Styrofoam bans in town, set up dog-waste stations in local parks, alerted the town to the damage to lobsters of polluted outflows, created maps of the future impact of rising seas, developed recycling and composting stations in the school cafeteria, and worked with the GREEN TEAM to build the award-winning "Generation Growers" garden and solar-powered garden shed.

[Boston 25 News](#) featured a story on the efforts of **Natick Schools** to eliminate the use of plastic straws in the cafeteria. Plastic straws can't be recycled because they are too small for recycling machines to sort. A Natick High School student met with school leaders and spoke at a school committee meeting, which encouraged the district to eliminate plastic straws altogether.

The official blog of the US Department of Education, [Homeroom](#), highlighted the sustainability efforts of

the **Boston Green Academy**, including obtaining 48 percent of its energy from renewable sources, converting its lawn to an outdoor classroom and garden, and requiring students to complete a long-term sustainability project as part of their studies.

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

School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development

Mark your calendars with these grant opportunities, workshops, conferences, and more!

June 5 – [World Environment Day](#). A United Nations initiative to encourage awareness and appreciation for our environment. This year's theme is "Beat Air Pollution."

June 12 – Deadline for [Sustainable Materials Recovery Program](#) (SMRP) Municipal Grants. SMRP grant funding can be used by municipalities and school districts to improve local recycling, composting, reuse, and hazardous waste diversion programs, including district-wide school recycling and food waste diversion programs.

June 17 – Deadline for **Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Program's** [Student Contest](#). Students ages 11-18 are invited to submit visual art, poetry, prose, film, and music that explores the impact of climate change on the ocean. Students may earn scholarships of up to \$1,500, including *The Hometown Award*, which recognizes Boston Area students who may not have equal access to quality arts programs.

June 17 – Deadline for **Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Program's** [Marine Debris Creative Advocacy Competition](#). This international competition challenges middle and high school student groups to design and lead a project that creatively educates others about plastic pollution and inspires action to reduce or prevent marine debris. It's a perfect opportunity for green teams, marine science or art clubs, or any environmentally-minded teens. Students can earn awards of up to \$5,000! The deadline is June 17, 2019, but interested students or classes should register their project ideas early.

June 18-24 – [National Pollinator Week](#) is a celebration of valuable species of pollinators including bees, birds, butterflies, and more. The website offers resources to help support these creatures and the critical role they play in our lives. Visit the Pollinator Partnership's [website](#) to learn about events happening in your area, or add your event to the nationwide map!

July 8-12 - The Wade Institute for Science Education's [Berkshire Region Summer Professional](#)

[Development Institute](#) will feature a professional learning experience for Grades 3-8 educators entitled: **Thinkers and Tinkerers: Using Biomimicry to Teach Engineering and Life Sciences**. Register online using this [form](#).

July 15-19 - The Wade Institute for Science Education's [Cape Cod Region Summer Professional Development Institute](#) will feature a professional learning experience for middle and high school educators entitled: **Go Under the Sea With STEM: Investigating Marine Life from Open Ocean to Coastal Shores**. Register online using this [form](#).

July 15-19 - The Wade Institute for Science Education's [North Central Region Summer Professional Development Institute](#) will feature a professional learning experience for middle and high school educators entitled: **Exploring Innovative Solutions to Environmental Challenges Through Green Chemistry, Biomimicry, and Real World Technologies**. Register online using this [form](#).

July 15-19 - The Wade Institute for Science Education's [Southeast Region Summer Professional Development Institute](#) will feature a professional learning experience for grades 3-8 educators entitled: **Inquiry and Innovation: How Science Informs Engineering Solutions**. Register online using this [form](#).

Other Resources

Crayola [ColorCycle](#) is a free marker recycling program that collects and repurposes old markers from K-12 schools across the United States. ColorCycle recycles components of the markers into wax compounds that are used in the manufacturing of asphalt and roofing shingles, and sends the remaining plastic to a waste-to-energy plant.

MassRecycle's [Great Locker Greenout Toolkit](#) offers suggestions for how to organize a locker "greenout" that maximizes reuse and recycling and minimizes trash. Don't forget to make a waste reduction plan as you prepare for the end of the school year!

We wish you and your students a great end to the school year and a wonderful summer. We hope you register again for THE GREEN TEAM when you return in the fall!

Don't forget to water your compost bins before you leave for summer vacation!

Megan Denardo
Green Team Program Administrator