



“The students have learned about what they can do at home and at school to reduce their energy waste. They understand the importance of saving energy.”

– Miriam Robinson, Newton Elementary School, Greenfield

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

We are excited for the beginning of the new school year and to begin working with the 110 teachers who have already registered for THE GREEN TEAM! GREEN TEAM registrations do not carry over from year to year, so remember to register again even if you participated last year. If you haven't already done so, [register for the 2019-2020 school year](#) today! GREEN TEAM teachers receive a [GREEN TEAM kit](#) full of useful resources and are eligible to win prizes recognizing their students' achievements.

We have recycling equipment in stock at three locations throughout the state. To request [free recycling and composting equipment](#), please [register for the 2019-2020 school year](#) and submit a [recycling equipment application form](#). The Boston-area location will have three scheduled distribution dates during the 2019-2020 school year. **The first will be Wednesday, September 25, so be sure to submit your equipment request by September 20<sup>th</sup>.** There will be two other distribution dates, one in November and one in April.

Equipment is available on an ongoing basis from the Amherst and Pittsfield locations. Distributions are scheduled by appointment. You will be provided with additional information upon approval of your equipment request.

### **GREEN TEAM Spotlight**

**Hingham High School** successfully incorporates food waste reduction, recycling, composting, and sustainability practices into their school operations and educational programs. THE GREEN TEAM's [Hingham High School Case Study Video](#) spotlights the school's commitment to sustainability and demonstrates how resources available through THE GREEN TEAM have helped them achieve their goals.

Hingham High School encourages leadership development and engagement with their waste diversion programs through student volunteers and school-wide programs. The school's Slash the Trash program harnesses athletic competition to ensure proper separation of cafeteria waste. School sports teams are assigned a day to monitor cafeteria waste stations, helping their fellow students understand the importance of recycling and composting. Hingham High School students excel at sorting their waste and are currently diverting approximately 8 tons of mixed recycling and 0.5 tons of food waste per month!



*Hingham High School students sorting recyclables and organics from their waste stream.*

Throughout the school year, send us photos and stories about the great work you are doing to share in [THE GREEN TEAM Spotlight](#) and [THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#)!

### **GREEN TEAM in the Media**

The [Boston Globe](#) reported on the success of the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School District's** composting and recycling programs. The district committed to a sustainability policy in 2017, and all schools now compost and recycle in their lunch rooms. In addition, the district switched from Styrofoam to compostable plates.

[Next Avenue](#) featured an article on **Belchertown Public School District's** gardening program. Some 880 students from three contingent schools work on the project and learn how to care for crops throughout the year. For their efforts, the district won a 2019 Gro More Good Grassroots Grant through an organization called [Kids Gardening](#).

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!

**September 7** – [Keep Massachusetts Beautiful's National Planting Day](#), a fall initiative of the Great American Cleanup, is a call to action designed to mobilize communities to support local ecosystems by planting native species.

**September 20** – Deadline to submit THE GREEN TEAM [recycling equipment applications](#) for the September 25<sup>th</sup> distribution day to be held in West Roxbury (Equipment requests for the Amherst and Pittsfield equipment locations may be submitted at any time).

**September 20** – The [Green Careers Conference](#) at the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Westborough. This event showcases careers in sustainability, with stakeholders from the government, business, education, and non-profit sectors.

**September 25** – Distribution day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. [Register](#) for THE GREEN TEAM for the 2019-2020 school year and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) by September 20<sup>th</sup> to request equipment. There will also be distribution dates in November and April.

**October 1** – Deadline for [Toshiba America Foundation grants](#) (grades K-5, \$1000). The Toshiba America Foundation awards grants to educators who are passionate about making mathematics and science more engaging for their students. This deadline is for educators of grades K-5 and offers grants up to \$1,000.

**October 16** – [Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association \(MFAA\) Conference](#) in Danvers aims to help facilities professionals continue their professional growth with a focus on providing safer, healthier, and sustainable learning environments for staff and students.

**October 21-25** – [Massachusetts STEM week](#) is a statewide effort to boost the interest, awareness, and ability for all learners to envision themselves in STEM education and employment opportunities. The theme for the second annual statewide STEM Week is “See Yourself in STEM.” Regional Programming Lists for STEM week will be announced soon.

**November 15** – Keep America Beautiful’s [America Recycles Day](#). Take action in your community by getting involved with 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!

### **Other Resources**

Sustainable America recently released a new [Anti-Idling Toolkit](#) to raise awareness and take action on reducing vehicle idling. The Toolkit includes creative ideas, advice, and printable resources for taking action at your school to help on this important issue. This new toolkit can complement the idling reduction signs and materials available for GREEN TEAM participants. Visit the [Recycling Equipment](#) page to request free idling reduction materials to help support your anti-idling efforts.

THE GREEN TEAM is thrilled to empower you and your students to help the environment again this year!

**Megan Denardo**  
**Green Team Program Administrator**