

## October 2019 Newsletter



"We collaborated with eight other schools in our district, and our collective donation total was 10 TONS of textiles!! Unbelievable!!!"

- Mary Ellen Duggan, Albert S. Woodward Memorial School, Southborough

Hello GREEN TEAM Teachers!

Welcome to the more than 220 teachers who have already registered for THE GREEN TEAM this school year! We are in the process of assembling [GREEN TEAM Classroom Kits](#). You should be receiving your GREEN TEAM kit in the next few weeks.

Now that you are registered, you can request [FREE recycling and composting equipment](#) and [idling reduction signs and materials](#) for your school! The next distribution date for equipment in Boston will be November 15, with an application deadline of November 12.

For schools not in the Boston area, equipment is available on an ongoing basis at the Amherst and Pittsfield locations. Distributions are scheduled by appointment. You will be provided with additional information upon approval of your equipment request.

### **Reused School Equipment at Discounted Prices**

[Re-Stream](#), a green business logistics company headquartered in Waltham, MA, often has recycling bins, desks, and other excess office supplies available to schools. Please contact John Fantasia at **(781) 899-0059** to find out what is currently available.

[The Great Exchange](#) at Devens Eco Efficiency Center prevents waste by rescuing surplus items, and

provides discounted prices on supplies for schools and not-for-profit entities. Its two locations in Devens are open **during the last two Thursdays of each month.**

- The location at [33 Andrews Parkway](#) is stocked with classroom, craft, janitorial, office, shipping, and safety supplies in very good condition. The location is accessible on the **second to last Thursday of each month, 8:00am - 6:30pm.**
- The [100 Sherman Avenue](#) location is filled with new and gently used office furniture, storage units, brochure racks, bulletin and white boards, wall art, and janitorial supplies all available on the **last Thursday of each month, 8:00am-4:30pm.**

To RSVP (appreciated, not required), or for more info, contact [donaneely@ecostardevens.com](mailto:donaneely@ecostardevens.com). Group visits outside of open hours can be accommodated upon request.

### **GREEN TEAM Spotlight**

Pinpoint Donation, a new [website](#) with a database of over 100 charities in the Boston area that accept household goods, was started by two students at the **Winsor School** in Boston. As a school project, Anjali Palepu and Salma Ibrahim wanted to address the mismatch between what donors want to offer and what charities need. Donors often do not know where to donate their goods, and organizations don't want to receive goods that they can't redistribute. Pinpoint Donation is designed to solve this disconnect by creating a centralized list of organizations accepting household donations and what exactly they are currently taking in.

Additionally, the [Pinpoint Donation Facebook Group](#) gives charities an easy way to communicate their current needs to a community of donors. Charities or individuals helping needy families can post what they are looking for, and donors can respond with photos to make sure the item is suitable. Donors can also post items that they would like to give away and charities can respond if they need that item, or other group members can provide advice on where to donate.



*Anjali Palepu and Salma Ibrahim, students at the **Winsor School** in Boston, created Pinpoint Donation to better connect donors of household goods with charities in the Boston area.*

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**

*iberkshires.com* featured a story on **Hoosac Valley High School**, which received a [Henry P. Kendall Foundation grant](#) that will allow the school to convert its abandoned tennis courts into a school garden and outdoor classroom.

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!

**October 3** – Join Mass. Farm to School for a tour of the Western Mass. Food Processing Center at the Franklin County CDC in Greenfield. The center freezes up to 100,000 lbs of regional produce annually for consumption in local schools, such as carrot coins, broccoli, squash, potatoes and bell peppers. Throughout the tour, you will have the opportunity to learn about purchasing from the center to help you source locally now and into the future. Register [here](#) for the 3-5 pm tour.

**October 4** – Join Mass. Farm to School for a tour of the Worcester Regional Food Hub. The Food Hub sources a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, and specialty foods from local farmers available to wholesale buyers in MA. You will have the opportunity to learn about purchasing from the Food Hub to help you source locally for your school. Register [here](#) for the 3-5:30 pm tour.

**October 15** – Application deadline for Whole Kids Foundation [School Garden Grant](#). This \$2,000 grant supports edible educational gardens on school grounds.

**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 more 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.” View the full schedule of events and programs [here](#).

**November 12** – Deadline to submit THE GREEN TEAM [recycling equipment application](#) for the November 15 distribution day in Boston. ([Equipment requests](#) for the Amherst and Pittsfield equipment locations may be submitted at any time).

**November 15** – 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 November 12 for this distribution. The next Boston-area distribution will be held in April.

**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!

**November 19-20** – Join the National Science Teacher Association for a two-day workshop, [Making Sense of Phenomenon-Based Teaching and Learning](#), at the EcoTarium in Worcester. In this two-day immersive experience, you will develop a deep understanding of science and engineering practices,

disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts.

### **Other Resources**

K-12 schools can save up to 50% on energy use if they optimize their lighting equipment and operations. The US Department of Energy's Better Building initiative has developed the [K-12 Lighting Toolkit](#), which provides technical implementation details, case studies, specifications, and more on lighting technologies in K-12 schools.

PepsiCo Recycling's [Recycle Rally](#) is a program to track and encourage recycling at schools. Your school can earn reward points for the plastic bottles and aluminum cans logged in the self-reporting portal.

Thank you for joining THE GREEN TEAM again this school year!

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