



November 2019 Newsletter

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Presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

“The Brackett Green Team has had a great and productive year... Students see that they have a powerful voice that can effect change in their school community and beyond.”

- Rachel Oliveri, Brackett Elementary School, Arlington

Happy November GREEN TEAM teachers!

We are excited to have more than 270 teachers registered for the GREEN TEAM so far this year! We hope that you will [register for THE GREEN TEAM](#) and join our network of educators working hard to teach students to respect and protect the environment.

All registered GREEN TEAM teachers can request [free recycling and composting equipment](#) and [idling reduction signage](#). If you are in the Boston area, make sure to submit a GREEN TEAM recycling equipment application by November 12 in order to pick up your materials at our equipment distribution day on November 15.

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

THE GREEN TEAM provides an assortment of resources to help you plan lessons and activities that engage students with important environmental issues. The following educational materials are just a few of the items available in THE GREEN TEAM kits mailed to all participants:

- The [Slash Trash Lesson](#) and [Report](#), which encourage students to track waste disposal at home as they identify and implement new waste reduction activities.
- The [Clean Air Activities](#), which empower students to improve air quality around their schools by creating an idle-free zone.
- The [Climate Change Activities](#), which teach students about the concepts of global warming and climate change, and ask them to identify and track opportunities to conserve energy or reduce pollution at home and at school.



GREEN TEAM staff cheerfully assembling the 2019-2020 GREEN TEAM kits.

Donate Textiles this Season!

According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Massachusetts residents and businesses throw away nearly a quarter-million tons of clothing, shoes, and other textiles each year! To help reduce this astounding figure, consider textile reuse as an initiative for your GREEN TEAM. There are a number of donation programs that can help deliver unwanted items from your school community to people who need them:

- Register to be a [Coats for Kids](#) collection site. Anton's Cleaners collects, cleans, and distributes over 60,000 coats each year.
- Host a [Cradles to Crayons Drive](#) and collect items like children's clothing, sneakers, and baby books. Cradles to Crayons partners with social service organizations to provide these resources to children ages 0 to 12.

- Install a [Bay State Textiles](#) or [Helpsy](#) collection box in your parking lot, or organize a [Bag2School](#) collection. All of these programs can help your school raise money in exchange for the textiles you collect.

Students from **Centerville Elementary School's** Green Team in Beverly created this funny and informative video on how to donate or recycle unwanted clothing and textiles.



Click on the photo to watch the Green Team students at Centerville Elementary School share their insight about textile recycling.

To learn more about textile recovery, visit the [MassDEP Textile Recovery](#) page for fact sheets, community resources, and other information.

GREEN TEAM Spotlight

Since 2006, **Weymouth Public Schools** have partnered with Bay State Textiles' [School Box Program](#). Bay State Textiles installed textile bins at all of Weymouth's schools, and pays \$100/ton for collected materials. As of last month, the resulting partnership had diverted **481 tons** of useful material, and earned Weymouth Public Schools nearly \$50,000. Additionally, it has kept these materials out of the trash, saving the Town another \$50,000 in disposal costs.

Weymouth Public Schools launched their textile recycling program as a contest between the schools. The district engaged various community businesses and institutions to sponsor a \$500 bonus award to the top performing school based on student ratio. The school administration has continuously publicized the program through the Weymouth Public Schools website, Weymouth Pride Newsletter, banners, flyers at schools and community partners locations, public cable "information scrolls", press releases,

and phone calls. Read more about the implementation of this program in the [Weymouth Public Schools Textile Recycling Case Study](#) published by the MassDEP.

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

The Daily News reported on **Amesbury Middle School's** [participation in Massachusetts STEM week](#). Students have learned about the benefits of recycling, and how they can help their school work towards zero waste.

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!

November 7 – Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign to celebrate and inspire outdoor learning and play. On this day, thousands of schools around the world take lessons outdoors and prioritize playtime. Visit the [website](#), sign up, and check out the online resources for activities, lesson ideas, and materials to inspire your Outdoor Classroom Day.

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, participants will develop a deep understanding of science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts.

November 23 – Mass Audubon’s [Youth Climate Summit](#) at Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln. Students will participate in a dynamic, full-day Learning Summit, then have five months to develop and implement their climate action projects with support and coaching from Mass Audubon, culminating in a Community Showcase in April.

December 13 – Application deadline for the USDA’s [Farm to School Grant Program](#). Schools and school districts can apply for planning or implementation grants to start or expand a farm to school program.

December 17 – Application deadline for the [2020 Youth Garden Grant](#). Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youths between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply. A total of 25 programs will be awarded a variety of gardening tools and supplies, as well as cash awards up to \$1000. Awards will be distributed in February 2020.

January 29 – Save the date for a webinar about THE GREEN TEAM program at 3:30 p.m. Registration link and details to be posted soon on [THE GREEN TEAM events page](#).

Other Resources

The US Department of Agriculture’s [Offer Versus Serve](#) program is a provision in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program that allows students to decline some of the food offered at school meals. The program has a goal of reducing food waste in school meals programs while permitting students to decline foods they do not intend to eat. The program is optional at all grade levels for breakfast and required at the senior high school level only for lunch.

Republic Services’ [Recycling Simplified Education Program](#) contains step-by-step lesson plans and supporting materials such as activities, videos, student certificates, and handouts to teach your students about recycling.

We hope THE GREEN TEAM’s resources will help empower your students to recycle, compost, and become great environmental stewards!

Megan Denardo
GREEN TEAM Program Administrator

