



## February 2020 Newsletter

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"I love THE GREEN TEAM! Students are learning sustainability and love to plant in the outdoor gardens."

–Sandra Johnson, Agawam Junior High School, Feeding Hills

Dear GREEN TEAM Teachers,

Over 100,000 students from almost 300 schools across Massachusetts are participating in THE GREEN TEAM so far this school year! See the [participating schools](#) list if you'd like to network with other teachers in your area.

Do your students love working on environmental projects? Don't forget to [register for THE GREEN TEAM](#) this year so they can be recognized for their efforts! Teachers who have registered for THE GREEN TEAM should submit a Teacher Response Form (TRF) [online](#) or mail in the [printable version](#) by **March 31** to report their students' waste reduction, energy conservation, and pollution prevention activities. Participants can receive prizes – such as a garden center gift certificate or a school-wide performance by an Edu-tainer – to recognize their work!

The new year is a great time to have your students take [THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE](#). This activity encourages students to take action at home and at school to help protect the environment. During the 2018-2019 school year, more than 4,350 students took the pledge.

## **THE GREEN TEAM Webinar**

Thank you to the 69 participants who attended the first ever GREEN TEAM webinar last week! For everyone who attended, we hope that you found this format helpful for learning about all the ways schools and students can benefit from GREEN TEAM resources. If you couldn't make it, or you would like to review what was discussed during the webinar, we'll be posting the PowerPoint slides and the recording of the webinar to [THE GREEN TEAM website](#) very soon. Stay tuned!

## **MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grant Awardees**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) provides grant funding to improve local recycling, composting, reuse, and hazardous waste diversion programs.

Congratulations to the following municipalities that were awarded Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grants for school recycling equipment and implementation assistance in 2020:

- Milbury
- Townsend

MassDEP accepts applications for SMRP Grants between early April and mid-June. School's must work with a non-profit or their town to apply. Visit the [MassDEP SMRP Grant webpage](#) for more information.

## **GREEN TEAM Spotlight**

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**

*Patch.com* reported on [William Diamond Middle School's](#) new food rescue program in Lexington, which was launched on January 2, 2020. The new program is a collaboration between the school staff, food service provider, parent volunteers, the Lexington Office of Public Health, and Food Link, a food rescue organization based in Arlington. Students are taught how to preserve extra food for donation, and Food Link picks up the food and distributes it to local food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. The program has been vetted by The Lexington Office of Public health. As part of the program students also learn about the importance of food waste reduction.

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

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[the Media!](#)

## **School Programs, Events, Competitions, and Professional Development**

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

**February 5** - Massachusetts Safe Routes to School 5<sup>th</sup> annual [Winter Walk and Roll to School Day](#). Students and families across Massachusetts are encouraged to walk or bike to school to practice safe pedestrian habits and reduce their environmental impacts. [Learn more and register for the remaining flagship days](#).

**February 6** – [The Wade Institute for Science Education Professional Development Seminar Series](#) second group of seminars will feature sessions on **Insights Into Climate Change From Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Sites** and **Digging Into Data Analysis!**

**February 6** – Application deadline for the [NOAA-21st CCLC Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grant](#) through The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). The grants will support access to academic enrichment experiences for program participants at 21ST CCLC program sites.

**February 10** – Registration deadline for [The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision STEM competition](#). Teachers/coaches are requested to [register online](#) to receive tips for participating and optional instructions for submitting projects online.

**February 14** – Deadline to submit an application for the North American Association for Environmental Education [ee360 Community EE Fellowship Program](#). Fellows will strengthen their community through a community-based environmental education action project, gain access to two in-person professional development opportunities, and join a growing network of community leaders. Professionals of all ages are encouraged to apply.

**February 14** – Registration deadline for the Wade Institute for Science Education [Hybrid Professional Development Institute](#) for middle and high school teachers focusing on issues related to climate change education. This professional development opportunity runs from February 24 to May 8, 2020 and is titled **Our Climate, Our Communities: Science, Systems, and Solutions**. It features online and on-site classes with leading scientists working on climate change issues.

**February 27** – Submission deadline for [World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest](#). Students must create a short video about human population growth that highlights a global challenge, such as its

impact on the environment.

**March 4** – [Massachusetts Environmental Education Society \(MEES\) 2020 Conference](#). The MEES conference brings together environmental educators from across the state to network and learn new skills. This year THE GREEN TEAM will offer a workshop, “**On-Site Composting for Sustainability and Science**,” that will discuss how to compost outdoors at your school and how to make a worm bin for indoor composting in the classroom. Bring a 14 gallon or larger plastic storage bin to make a worm bin. Worms provided free!

**March 12** – [The Wade Institute for Science Education Professional Development Seminar Series](#) third day will feature the full day seminar: **Becoming a 21st Century Organization For All**.

**March 30** – Deadline for sending in nominations for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ (EEA) [2020 Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education](#). Nominate yourself or a colleague. The awards ceremony will be held at the Massachusetts State House in May, 2020.

**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.

**April 2** – [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.

**April 3** – Deadline to submit THE GREEN TEAM [recycling equipment application](#) for the April 8 distribution day to be held in Boston. (Equipment requests for the Amherst and Pittsfield locations may be submitted at any time).

**April 8** – [Distribution day](#) for THE GREEN TEAM recycling equipment for schools in the Boston area. Register for [THE GREEN TEAM](#) and submit a [recycling equipment application](#) by April 3 for this distribution.

**April 9** – [The Wade Institute for Science Education Professional Development Seminar Series](#) fourth day will feature seminars with the titles **Weather-Wise, Not Otherwise** and **Phenomena Are Not Always Phenomenal: The Hows and Whys of Engaging Students in Phenomena-Based Instruction**.

**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. This year for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day the theme is “Climate Action”.

**April 25** – Keep Massachusetts Beautiful’s [2020 Great Massachusetts Cleanup](#). Join with your neighbors, students, friends, family, and co-workers to clean up and beautify your neighborhood or community.

**May 1** – Submission deadline for the Massachusetts Marine Educators [2020 Marine Art Contest](#) . Students in grades K-12 are invited to submit a piece of original artwork focusing on this year’s theme, “Exploring the Biodiversity of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary”.

**May 14** – [Massachusetts Envirothon 2020](#). Save the date for this year’s Massachusetts Envirothon, at the Quabbin Reservoir in Belchertown. The current issue is “Sustainable Safe Water Supply.”

#### **Other Resources**

[Re-Stream](#), a green business logistics company headquartered in Waltham, MA, currently has a large quantity of recycling bins they would like to donate to schools (see pictures below). Please contact John Fantasia at (781) 899-0059 to find out what is currently available.

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Longwood Gardens offers [Virtual Field Trips](#) through live interactive video. Their educators deliver lessons directly to classrooms, and students are able to engage in discussion and problem-solving activities. Advance [registration](#) (at least two weeks before program date) is required.

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision has free [STEM lesson plans](#) for K-12 students available on their website.

The [Green Strides website](#) maintains a free collection of online resources and national grants. The collection is searchable by topic and resource type.

Roses are Red, THE GREEN TEAM is green,  
We all do our part to keep the earth clean!

**Megan Denardo**  
**GREEN TEAM Program Administrator**

You are receiving this e-mail because you are part of THE GREEN TEAM.

**Contact Us:**

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 225

Fax: (413) 586-7351

Email: [recycle@thegreenteam.org](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org)

**Our mailing address is:**

THE GREEN TEAM

320 Riverside Drive 1-A

Northampton, MA 01060

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