



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 7, 2021

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State Environmental Officials Announce Recipients of 'Green Team' Awards

MassDEP Recognizes Environmental Stewardship by Students

BOSTON – State environmental officials today recognized students from 19 schools across the Commonwealth for outstanding environmental actions as members of the “Green Team,” a statewide environmental education program sponsored by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

“The Baker-Polito Administration congratulates all of the Green Team teachers and students who showed outstanding leadership and initiative during the past school year to raise environmental awareness in their schools, homes and communities,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides.** “Despite remote learning and other challenges, these students continued to work on environmental activities at home, including recycling, composting, gardening, and creating outreach materials to share with their classmates, setting a tremendous example for their families, peers and communities.”

Students of any age can participate in the Green Team program, an initiative composed of students that share the goals of reducing pollution and protecting the environment. More than 26,000 students in 163 classes at 150 schools joined the Green Team program this school year, despite the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that many schools were operating on a hybrid schedule or were fully remote for at least part of the year.

Students took part in a range of activities, including expanding school recycling programs, researching electric vehicles, collecting textiles for donation and recycling, starting compost piles at home and school, using the compost generated to nourish a garden to grow vegetables, making their school driveways “Idle-Free Zones,” increasing energy efficiency in their schools and communities, and reducing their carbon footprint at school and at home.

These activities incorporated classroom disciplines from the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), reading, writing, art, and other non-classroom, interrelated projects.

“Green Team students learn to take the concept of environmental stewardship into their schools and communities with practical approaches to energy conservation, recycling, composting and pollution prevention projects,” **said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg.** “Participants in



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the Green Team program each year learn to create a positive impact on our environment and think about new ways to expand recycling and energy-efficiency efforts.”

While the pandemic affected schools across the state in unprecedented ways, teachers and Green Team students worked within safety restrictions and other limitations to continue engaging in environmental education and stewardship. Their creativity led to many at-home gardens flourishing, as well as successful organizing and outreach in local communities.

Participating teachers received a digital Green Team Kit containing classroom posters, lesson plans, recycling tips and access to a library of other resources. In addition, nine schools received recycling equipment from the Green Team to initiate or expand school recycling programs. Three schools received signs reading “Idle-Free Zone” from the Green Team that serve as a visual reminder to drivers to turn off their engines while waiting in the schoolyard.

Participating classes entered into a drawing for prizes, and 19 classes received prizes for their efforts (*see list below*). All the participating schools will receive a link to a remote interactive performance by environmental “edu-tainer” Jack Golden in addition to their tangible prizes, such as gift cards to local garden centers for trees and gardening supplies to further “green” their schools; bookmarks embedded with seeds to plant; and pencils and key chains made from recycled materials.

To learn more or to participate in the 2021-2022 school year, the 20th year for the Green Team, teachers may sign up online [here](#).

The following are Green Team prize winners:

School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	Prize
Abington Middle School	Abington	Lauren Peruzzi	7	Seed Bookmarks
Andover High School	Andover	Melanie Cutler	9-12	Key chains
Stratton Elementary School	Arlington	Katherine Whang	K-5	Seed Bookmarks
Blackstone Elementary School	Boston	Nicolette McMaster	K-5	Garden Supplies
Blackstone Elementary School	Boston	Julia Perlowski	2-5	Garden Supplies
Mount Alvernia Academy	Chestnut Hill	Maria Lyons	Pre-6	Seed Bookmarks
Brookside Elementary School	Dracut	Denise Porcello	3	Seed Bookmarks



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Marigold Montessori School	Haverhill	Linda Malbon	Pre-School	Seeded Bookmarks
East Elementary School	Hingham	Beverley Vernon	PreK-5	Garden Supplies
Maurice A. Donahue Elementary School	Holyoke	Christine Burns	3-4	Seed Bookmarks
Memorial Middle School	Hull	Heather Weber	6-8	Seed Bookmarks
St. Patrick School	Lowell	Marjorie O'Donnell	1	Recycling Pencils
St. Mary's High School	Lynn	Stacy Drector	6-12	Seed bookmarks
Mason-Rice Elementary School	Newton Centre	Wendy Sheu	K-5	Seed bookmarks
Pioneer Valley Regional School	Northfield	Nikki Pullen	9	Garden Supplies
Norwood Montessori School	Norwood	Tamiko Porter	PreK-12	Seed Bookmarks
Captain Samuel Brown School	Peabody	Diane Bugler	5	Seed Bookmarks
George R. Martin Elementary School	Seekonk	Corinne Carvalho	5	Recycling Pencils
Dr. Arthur F. Sullivan Middle School	Worcester	Jill Thibodeau	6-8	Seed Bookmarks

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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