



# THE GREEN TEAM Program Guide

THE GREEN TEAM  
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[www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org)

Welcome to THE GREEN TEAM, an environmental club for Massachusetts schools sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. This program provides resources to help students and teachers slow climate change, recycle and prevent pollution in their schools, homes and communities. Each class that takes THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE receives a Certificate of Recognition and is eligible to win great prizes. Classes that complete more activities advance to higher levels and are eligible to win more valuable rewards.

## "Planet Protectors" Level 1 Awards

"Planet Protectors Certificate" and entry into a drawing for recycled denim or currency pencils, or bookmarks for each student.

## "Conservation Coyotes" Level 2 Awards

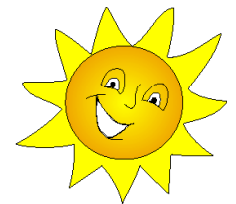
"Conservation Coyotes Certificate" and entry into a drawing for all of the previous rewards, information wheels, recycled tire key tags, or "GREEN TEAM" wristbands.

## "Environmental Eagles" Level 3 Awards

"Environmental Eagles Certificate" and entry into a drawing for all of the previous rewards, a recycling magic show, schoolwide recycling performance, participatory environmental concert, or garden supplies.

## YOUR GREEN TEAM KIT CONTAINS:

- GREEN TEAM Program Guide
- CLIMATE CHANGE Activities
- SLASH TRASH! Lesson plan
- CLEAN AIR Activities
- Pledge Card Templates
- GREEN TEAM Poster and Magnet
- 3 GREEN TEAM Achievement Stickers
- Sample Press Release
- Teacher Response Form



## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

STEP  
1

Review the enclosed materials. Decide which activity(s) to focus on - climate change, recycling, clean air, or a combination.

- **Climate Change** - Use the Climate Change Activities to discuss the causes and effects of global warming and help students discover and take actions to reduce it.
- **Recycling** - Use the "Slash Trash" lesson plan to lead a discussion with your students about the impacts of waste disposal and recycling on the environment. Use the recycling poster (available from THE GREEN TEAM lending library) as an aid and visual reminder of these tips. Discuss what can be recycled through the community's program and how it works. For information about your community recycling program, invite the community recycling coordinator to attend your class or visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com).
- **Clean Air** - Use the Clean Air Activities to lead a discussion about air pollution and its sources. Discuss the large contribution of vehicle exhaust to air pollution and how to reduce it through idling reduction and transportation alternatives. Consider making your school an "Idle-Free Zone."

STEP  
2

For each activity completed, place an Achievement Sticker on your GREEN TEAM poster in the designated space for that level. When your class has completed its chosen activities, return the teacher response form by mail, fax or on-line at [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org). **Teacher response forms must be returned by March 31.** You will receive a Certificate of Recognition for the classroom and prizes for your students. "Environmental Eagles" are automatically entered into a Grand prize drawing for performances by professional environmental "edu-tainers."

STEP  
3

Customize and issue the press release to publicize your school's efforts to the community newspaper.

## LEVEL 1

### PLANET PROTECTORS

Complete the following activity:

- Students take THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE to recycle, prevent pollution and slow climate change, and encourage their parents/guardians to take the pledge, also. THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE template is provided on the back of this guide. Teachers may make a copy for each student, or have students write out the Pledge individually.

## LEVEL 2

### CONSERVATION COYOTES

Take THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE and choose one activity from the list below:

- **Climate Change Scorecard** – Teachers present the climate change information in the Climate Change Activities and provide Climate Change Scorecards for each student. Students track their actions for a week, accumulating points for each action, and calculate their results as a class.
- **Slash Trash Report** - Teachers present the Slash Trash lesson plan included in this kit and make Slash Trash reports for each student, using the template provided. Students monitor their family's waste disposal and reduction efforts for a month using the Slash Trash reports and calculate the total amount of waste reduced by the class.
- **Idling Reduction Pledge** - Teachers present the air pollution prevention information in the Clean Air Activities and provide Idling Reduction Pledges for each student to ask their parents to sign. Teachers may request decals and bumper stickers from [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org) to give to students who return signed pledges. Students may also monitor the amount of vehicle idling taking place at the school.
- **Conduct the Light Bulb Energy Efficiency Lesson and Energy Reduction Pledge**, available on THE GREEN TEAM web site. Students compare the efficiency of compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs or light emitting diode (LED) bulbs to incandescent bulbs and ask their parents to take the Energy Reduction Pledge and replace incandescent bulbs with LED or CFL bulbs.
- **Create signs or posters** - Students create posters or signs for the community recycling center, library, Town Hall or school to remind other students, family members, and neighbors why and how to recycle, compost, protect air quality, prevent pollution and slow climate change.
- **Write letters or news articles** - Students write to government leaders, businesses, newspaper editors, or the school newspaper about the importance of recycling, waste reduction, pollution prevention, climate change prevention, and what actions the students recommend.
- **Use THE GREEN TEAM Library** - Borrow a video, book, recycling kit or other activity and conduct the activity with your class. For an on-line catalog of GREEN TEAM library materials and a Materials Request Form, visit [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org). This lending service is free.
- **Research energy-efficient automobiles** and clean or renewable fuels. For detailed fuel efficiency information on specific cars, visit [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov). Students may also calculate, compare and monitor the miles per gallon for their family vehicle and observe how it is affected by type of driving (highway/city).
- **Design an energy-efficient vehicle**, such as a solar-powered car. Visit [www.nrel.gov/about/car-competitions.html](http://www.nrel.gov/about/car-competitions.html).
- **Conduct the “Give Your Car a Break -Trip Tally” Activity** at <https://thegreenteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Give-your-Car-a-Break-Trip-Tally-Lesson-Plan.pdf>. Students learn how using transportation alternatives such as walking, carpooling and taking the bus reduces air pollution. They tally their efforts for a week and calculate individually and as a class how many car trips they saved.
- **Other** – You and your students may develop your own waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, climate change or pollution prevention activity.

## LEVEL 3

### ENVIRONMENTAL EAGLES

Take THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE, complete one activity from Level Two, and one activity from the following list:

- **Students calculate their carbon footprint at home and/or for the school** and make recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Massachusetts School Building Authority may provide assistance to help schools become more energy efficient; visit [www.massschoolbuildings.org](http://www.massschoolbuildings.org). The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center provides rebates for the installation of small residential and commercial solar photovoltaic systems; visit [www.masscec.com](http://www.masscec.com).
- **Students work on a project to help the community become “greener”** – Students create or develop new projects to help their community reduce its carbon footprint, waste and pollution. The Massachusetts Dept. of Energy Resources Green Communities Division provides assistance to help communities conserve and utilize renewable energy; visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division>.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EAGLES (Continued)

- **Students plant a tree or garden at the school** – Students work with school officials to make the schoolyard greener. Contact local garden centers, farms or gardeners for advice and materials. For mini-grants and other resources, visit Mass. Agriculture in the Classroom, [www.aginclassroom.org](http://www.aginclassroom.org).
- **Students help protect the rain forest, a local forest or undeveloped natural area** – Students learn about local or tropical forests and take action to protect them. For a global information portal on rainforest protection, visit <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/kids>.
- **Waste-free day** - Before teaching waste reduction lessons, the teacher saves one day's classroom trash in a closet or other out of the way location without telling the students. After the waste reduction lessons have been taught, students are challenged to pack waste-free snacks or lunches (using a thermos, reusable containers, cloth napkins, fruit snacks). At the end of the day the class compares the amount and nature of that day's trash with the amount and type of trash saved previously.
- **Set up a school recycling program** -- Establish a recycling program at the school or expand a current school recycling program. Refer to the Manual for Implementing School Recycling Programs and the Recycling Equipment Application Form available at [http://thegreenteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Starting\\_a\\_School\\_Recycling\\_Program\\_\(1\).pdf](http://thegreenteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Starting_a_School_Recycling_Program_(1).pdf).
- **Set up a classroom worm bin or outdoor compost bin** - For more resources and information on how to set up a worm bin or outdoor compost bin, visit <http://thegreenteam.org/recycling-facts/food-waste-reduction>.
- **Hold a school rummage sale or drive to collect recyclables** such as clothing, grocery bags, cell phones, crayons, VCR tapes, or toner cartridges from students, parents/guardians, and local businesses - For more information, see the "Links" at <http://thegreenteam.org/library-curricula/links>.
- **Make your school an Idle-Free Zone** – Using materials and signs available from <http://thegreenteam.org/request-equipment>, work with your school administration to post "Idle-Free Zone" signs in your school driveway or parking lot and ask bus drivers and parents to eliminate unnecessary idling when picking up and dropping off students.
- **Build a prototype vehicle** that runs on renewable energy, such as solar or wind power. Visit <https://www.nrel.gov/about/car-competitions.html> for information about the Junior Solar Sprint and how to participate or host one at your school.
- **Create a Safe Routes to Schools, Walk-to School, or Bike-to-School program** for your school. A manual and curriculum are available at [www.walkboston.org](http://www.walkboston.org).
- **Other** – You and your students may develop your own waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, climate change or pollution prevention activity.

## THE GREEN TEAM RESOURCES

### THE GREEN TEAM Website

All of THE GREEN TEAM materials are available at [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org). Climate change, energy conservation, recycling, composting and idling reduction lesson plans are available there, as well as THE GREEN TEAM Library Catalog, applications for recycling and idling reduction equipment, newsletters and links to related websites. You can also view other participating schools on-line to learn from each other, although contact information is posted by permission only. If you do not have internet access, copies of materials may be requested from THE GREEN TEAM administrator at the address on this letterhead.

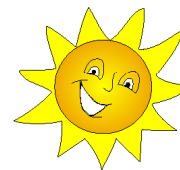
### Free Equipment and Materials

#### ○ Recycling Equipment

GREEN TEAM members may apply for free recycling equipment to initiate or enhance their school recycling programs. Equipment available includes recycling bins, wheeled carts, compost bins and worms for indoor composting worm bins.

#### ○ Idling Reduction Signs and Materials

GREEN TEAM members may request free "Idle-Free Zone" signs for their schools, preprinted Idling Reduction Pledge Cards, Idling Reduction bumper stickers, windshield decals and palm cards.



# THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE

As a member of THE GREEN TEAM I pledge to recycle, prevent pollution and slow climate change! I will encourage my family and friends to follow the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle; walk, bike, carpool or take public transportation; and conserve energy and water to help protect the environment for a better planet earth! I want to join THE GREEN TEAM and help the environment!

We pledge to reduce our trash, prevent pollution, conserve energy and protect natural resources by:

- RECYCLING at home
- RECYCLING at school
- USING both sides of the paper
- USING a lunch box or reusable bag
- REDUCING junk mail
- CHOOSING products with the least amount of packaging and those made with recycled materials



- REUSING/RECYCLING shopping bags
- COMPOSTING leaves, grass and food scraps
- WALKING, biking, carpooling or taking the bus
- TURNING OFF the engine when parked or waiting
- CONSERVING ENERGY
- CONSERVING WATER
- OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name



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