



CET

September 2025

The Green Team Program 2024-2025 Final Report

"[The Green Team] provided a unifying mission for us to focus on, and the resources helped provide action steps and a plan of attack. Very student friendly and easy to cater to the students and our school specifically."

- Emma Ethier, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School

CET continued to administer the MassDEP Green Team program in the 2024-2025 school year, with 484 Green Teams participating from 441 schools across Massachusetts. Program participation increased by 35% compared to the 2023-2024 school year (359 teams) and more than 73% compared to the 2022-2023 school year (280 teams). Registration and Leader Response Forms were collected via personalized, Salesforce-integrated forms to increase administrative efficiency. The Green Team program is fully funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and administered under contract to MassDEP by CET.

Participation Summary

The following table details the Green Team program participation during 2024-2025, as well as trends during the previous five years.

	2024-2025	Change from Previous Year	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Participating Green Teams	484	+35%	359	280	221	165
Participating Schools	441	+37.8%	320	246	201	150
Participating Students	67,102	+20%	55,935	60,096	41,320	26,378
LRFs Submitted	94	+47%	65	49	27	19
LRF Submission Rate*	19.8%	+9.3%	18.1%	18%	12%	12%

*LRF Submission Rate based on total registrations at Leader Response Form deadline (475 Green Teams).



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During the 2024-2025 school year, the 484 Green Team registrations represented:

- 383 Leaders
- 441 Schools
- 67,102 Participating Students
- 210 (43%) Green Teams located in Environmental Justice Communities, as identified by MassDEP

All participants received a digital Green Team Kit containing a classroom poster, lesson plans, press release, and suggested activities; hard copy kits were mailed to teachers upon request (3 requests). 690 individuals downloaded 775 files from the digital Green Team Kit. A total of 94 teachers submitted response forms indicating the Green Team activities they conducted with their students. Green Team teachers reported a wide variety of achievements and actions their students took over the past year, including reducing food waste through share tables, diverting food waste through cafeteria sorting stations, growing school pollinator gardens, collecting textiles, establishing idle-free zones, switching to reusable serviceware, and integrating Green Team lesson plans into project-based learning curriculum.

141 (29%) Green Teams registered in August following the launch of the new registration process. 355 (73%) Green Teams registered before the end of December 2024. Registrations were accepted until June 15, 2025.

Outreach

During the year, CET conducts statewide outreach to increase participation and strengthen the network of program partners and supporters. CET conducted various outreach activities this fiscal year, including virtual meetings, in-person presentations, exhibitor events, electronic communications, and networking with partner organizations. CET also shared information about the Green Team program with partner organizations and municipal representatives that work with K-12 schools. Mid-year, CET reached out directly to teachers that registered for the program in past years but had not yet registered in the 2024-2025 school year. This resulted in 68 registrations.



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Green SWORD (School Waste Reduction & Diversion) Working Group

CET continued to actively participate in [Green SWORD](#) (School Waste Reduction & Diversion) by representing the Green Team program in quarterly stakeholder meetings, as well as the sub-working group meetings on the following topics:

- Institutionalizing School Waste Reduction & Diversion Policies
- Transitioning from Single Use Disposable to Reusable Food Serviceware
- School Organics Collection for On-Site & Off-Site Composting
- School Sustainability Program Kickoff & Events

"I love the support from Green Team."

- Paula Duhon, Lee Elementary School, Lee

Conferences & Workshops

CET participated in the following events to share information about the Green Team program and waste diversion best practices for K-12 schools:

- October 2024 - **Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association & Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MFAA-MASBO) annual conference.** CET tabled alongside colleagues at MassDEP to share resources for recycling and composting equipment, as well as best practices for reducing and diverting waste in schools.
- November 2024 – **Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) Annual Conference in Falmouth.** CET exhibited and presented at the MHOA Conference to share resources related to both the RecyclingWorks and Green Team programs with municipal representatives, including public health professionals.
- March 2024 – **Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) Conference.** CET hosted an exhibitor table to share Green Team and RecyclingWorks resources with environmental extracurricular programs, camps, special programs, and schools.
- March 2025 - **MassRecycle Annual Conference and Trade Show.** CET hosted an exhibitor table to share information about equipment, resources, and technical assistance available to K-12 schools through the Green Team and RecyclingWorks programs.



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- March 2025 - **Springfield Farm to School Summit.** CET hosted an exhibitor table and engaged with teachers eager to participate in and expand upon environmental initiatives at their schools. This outreach event directly led to 13 Green Team registrations.



Green Team and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection colleagues tabled together at the MEES Conference.

- May 2025 - **Healthy Programs, Healthy Kids Summit.** CET joined MassDEP to share Green Team and RecyclingWorks resources focused on reusable serviceware and technical assistance with dining and food service directors and various other health and wellness coordinators from schools across the state.

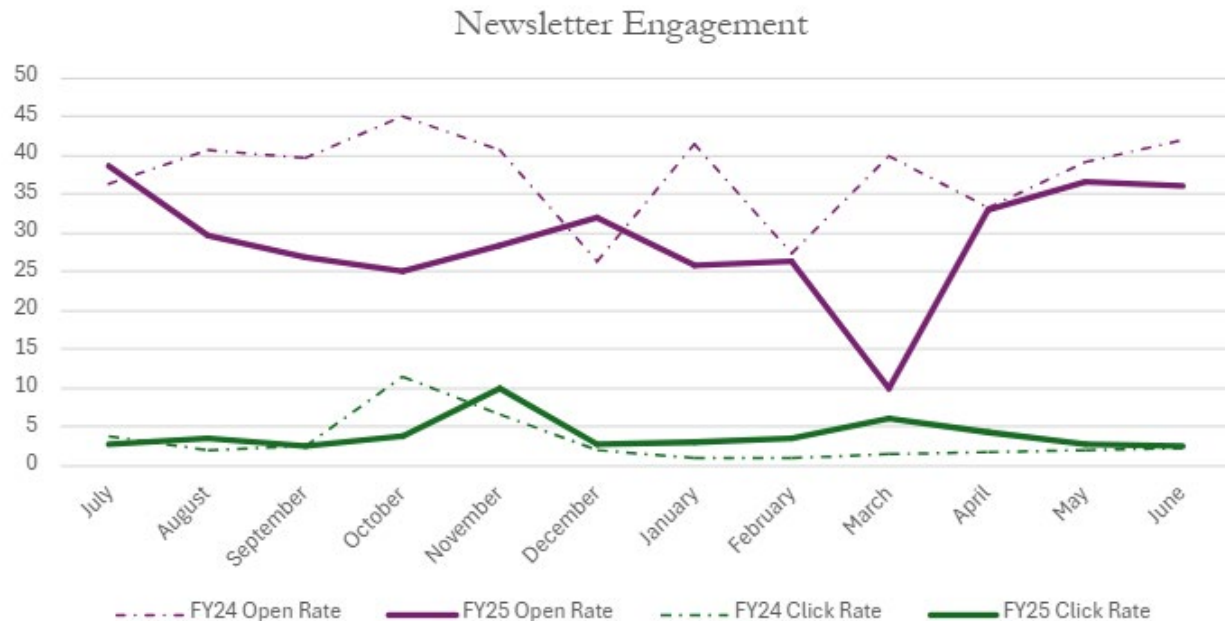
Newsletter Engagement

On average, 1,281 people opened the newsletter each month, representing a 29% open rate during FY25. For the year, the average number of recipients per newsletter was 4,580. The average click rate was 3.9%. The Green Team newsletter engagement metrics outperform the average click rate across industries; according to email marketing company MailChimp, the [average email campaign](#) click rate is 2.6%.

Green Team Email Newsletter Metrics		
Fiscal Year	Average Open Rate	Average Click Rate
FY25	29%	3.9%
FY24	37.7%	3.2%
FY23	32.2%	5.2%
FY22	36.6%	3.7%
FY21	31.7%	4.1%



In general, newsletter engagement was highest at the beginning and end of the school year with a dip in March that rebounded in April.



1,173 recipients opened the e-blast sent in April to announce the Leader Response Form deadline, and the e-blast had a 29.5% open rate and 1.9% click rate.

Equipment & Materials

To help support waste diversion and idling reduction efforts in schools, MassDEP makes several different types of recycling, composting, and idle reduction equipment and materials available to Green Team program participants upon request.

Recycling & Composting Equipment

MassDEP provided recycling and composting equipment to 16 individual schools and 3 school districts to help support school waste reduction efforts. Equipment distributed included recycling set out bins, desk-side bins, wheeled totes, compost bins, and worm vouchers for vermicomposting.



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The following chart details the equipment distribution:

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Schools Receiving Equipment	16 Schools 3 Districts*	38	30	23	12
New Programs	14	16	7	6	5
Set Out Containers	457	685	404	417	188
Recycling Desk-Side Bins	252	452	491	65	166
Recycling Carts	111	115	77	45	18
Compost Bins	30	34	31	4	2
Worm Vouchers	11	9	13	7	2



**Includes 3 school district pickups representing 63 combined schools. Several schools were restarting recycling programs since 2020. "New Programs" represents all new composting and/or recycling programs.*

The Green Team coordinated with schools to meet at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency facility to receive recycling equipment.



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Idling Reduction Signs & Materials

In FY25, nine individual schools and one school district representing 11 schools requested Idling Reduction materials. Eight out of these ten requests for signs and/or materials came from schools interested in starting new idling reduction programs.

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Schools Receiving IR Materials	10*	<i>11</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>
New Programs	8	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>
Idle-Free Zone Signs	105	<i>63</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>14</i>
5 Minute Idling Limit Signs	4	<i>12</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>
Idle Reduction Pledge Cards	330	<i>900</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>0</i>
Static Sticker Windshield Decals	1100	<i>835</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>150</i>
Bumper Stickers	540	<i>594</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>50</i>
School Bus Dashboard Stickers	500	<i>27</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>0</i>
Palm Cards	500	<i>1565</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>200</i>

* 9 individual schools received equipment. 1 school district representing 11 schools received equipment.

Awards

Green Team leaders were asked to submit a list of climate change, waste reduction, and clean air activities they had completed, by March 31, 2025. This deadline was extended to encourage more responses. CET sent pollinator seed packets, award letters, and Certificates of Recognition to all 94 Teams that submitted Leader Response Forms (LRF). The 2024-2025 LRF submission rate was 19.8% (94 out of 475 registrants at the LRF deadline), compared to an 18.1% response rate the previous school year. 32 Green Teams received e-gift cards for going above and beyond this school year.

John D. Philbrick Elementary School in Boston, Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School in Peabody, Wayland High School, Mashpee Middle-High School, Norwood High School, William L. Foster Elementary School in Hingham, The Bromfield School in



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Harvard, and HEC Academy in Northampton, representing the eight MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator regional districts, received grand prizes and were recognized for their achievement. Additionally, 24 Green Teams were recognized for a particular focus on Idling and Pollution Prevention, Composting, Share Tables and Sorting Stations, Gardening, Recycling, Reuse and/or Waste Prevention, Textile Reuse and Recycling, or Activism and Community Engagement.

E-gift cards could be used for a celebratory party or equipment to support their Green Team program. One team shared they would use the gift card to purchase grabbers for the organics collection bin at their cafeteria sorting station.

Describe
your Green
Team
activities:



How did your students benefit?





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"Students are more conscientious about their environment and are able to make more informed choices regarding their carbon footprint."

- Cheryl Lockett, Somerset Middle School, Somerset

MassDEP posted a [press release](#) showcasing the accomplishments of the 2024-2025 Green Teams. This press release was shared widely through the [Green Team website](#), various newsletters, social media re-shares, and newspapers across the Commonwealth.



Foster Elementary School students turned share table apples into delicious, dried fruit snacks for the class to enjoy.

Website Metrics

Total views increased by 78.7% and users to the Green Team website decreased by 18.8% in FY25. The average time spent per visit increased 160%.



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Green Team Website Traffic FY21-FY25:

	Views	Users	Page Views	Views per User	Avg. Visit Duration	% New Visits
Total FY25	56,408	11,339	25,225	2.23	5:43	93.1%
Total FY24	31,564	13,972	-	2.26	2:12	-
Total FY23	21,821	17,439	35,593	1.72	1:11	90.2%
Total FY22	33,953	28,244	51,337	1.51	0:59	90.6%
Total FY21	27,614	22,675	42,390	1.54	1:02	90.7%

*Starting in July 2023, Google Analytics (G4) simplified the analytics, which adjusted user information and combined sessions and views.

Additional Program Administration

CET staff managed registrations through Salesforce, sent [digital kits](#) to registered teachers, mailed Green Team Kits to teachers when requested, forwarded equipment requests to MassDEP for distribution, corresponded with program participants, maintained the database of participating schools, solicited and entered Leader Response Forms, prepared and delivered digital Certificates of Recognition, and mailed prizes.

CET regularly updated the Green Team website. In addition, CET developed systems to streamline reporting and administrative tasks through Salesforce. CET also updated the participating schools list and map throughout the 2024-2025 school year and posted both to the [Participating Schools](#) page.

Special Projects

Newsletter Spotlight:

[Mashpee Middle/High School](#), led by Science Teacher Shona Vitelli, is making significant strides in diverting materials from the waste stream with their new and improved reusable trays and cafeteria sorting stations! With the support and guidance of The Green Team, this school has launched a transformative program that is reshaping how they manage lunchroom waste. The results speak for themselves!



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" We've reduced our lunchroom trash by 70% since switching to reusable trays. From 12 bags to just 3-4 bags a day, we're no longer using Styrofoam trays or sending food waste to landfills. The participation has been incredible, and it's been a huge step toward a more sustainable school. Go Falcons! "

- Shona Vitelli, Mashpee Middle/High School Green Team Leader

Transforming the Lunchroom: The transformation began when the school introduced reusable trays for all lunches. Immediately, students sorted their food waste from their trash and recycling and brought their trays to the dishroom for cleaning and sanitizing. This simple change has had an outstanding impact, resulting in a **70% reduction in the amount of trash sent to the landfill**. Previously, the school produced 12 bags of trash during lunch; now they are down to just 3-4 bags per day!

Impressive Waste Reduction Numbers: To put this into perspective, the school previously generated 384 gallons of trash every day during lunch. With the switch to reusable trays and the active recycling of food waste, that number has dropped dramatically. **Over the course of a school year, they have reduced trash by an incredible 69,120 gallons**, significantly lowering their environmental footprint and contributing to a cleaner planet.

Turning Food Waste into Valuable Resources: The impact doesn't stop at waste reduction. **The school now collects and recycles almost 14 gallons of food waste each day**, which is sent to Black Earth Compost. This organic waste is transformed into nutrient-rich soil, which will eventually be used to grow more food for the school's garden. This completes the cycle of sustainability and further enhances the school's green initiatives.

Community Support and Participation: The school has seen overwhelming support from the students and staff, with 65% participation in the new system during the first week—higher than expected. Thanks to the dedication of everyone involved, this initiative is becoming the new normal for the school community.



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Mashpee Middle/High School students diverted food waste using their effective cafeteria sorting station.

In Conclusion

CET successfully administered the Green Team for the 2024-2025 school year with the highest registration of Teams to date. Green Team Leader engagement was active, personalized, and productive. In collaboration with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency location in Franklin, all recycling and composting equipment was effectively distributed to meet the needs of Green Team schools and bolster diversion programs. The Green Team website and administrative processes were modernized to improve efficiency and allow CET to dedicate more time to individual technical assistance and support for Green Team Leaders. Schools across the Commonwealth benefited from the Green Team program and shared their appreciation in Leader

Response Forms collected at the end of the year. CET is dedicated to building on the success of the 2024-2025 school year and envisions continued growth and development in the years ahead.



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Appendix: Green Team Leader Response Form Feedback

"We're planting the school garden for the first time this May. [The Green Team offered] practical application of current STEM classes."

Millville Elementary School

Millville

"The students created both the plastic film collection bin and tardy slip collection bins for each classroom using reused/recycled materials. Students made announcements to classroom and at the all school meeting. We also collected plastic film to be recycled and created tardy slip collection bin to reuse tardy slip instead of recycling and printing new ones."

C C Burr

Auburndale

"Students were able to learn about ways to recycle and how to save planet Earth from trash. Students were able to work together every week to focus on ways to recycle in their classroom. The Green team was great. This was our first year and it was helpful to have their support. Students were able to engage in a new system for recycling in the class. Prior to this program, students were not recycling and there wasn't a system in place for recycling."

James F Hennessey

Lawrence

"Students are learning to take responsibility for their environment and understand that they are not the only ones who live here. They feel more connected to other species and are responsible for their well-being. We created a Pick Up at Pick Up event, during which students cleaned up trash around the campus during school pick up. We organized outside organizations to come and educate the kids on birds and pollinators and coordinated with the town to plant a native."

Brackett Elementary School

Arlington

"Awareness of various green initiatives was increased throughout our entire school community. For the students participating, they not only increased their awareness, but they also felt a real sense of agency over their actions to help the environment. The students promoted our school wide composting program, bike, walk and roll to school days, and the Waste Free Wednesday initiative through posters, writing for the school newspaper, writing for the weekly family



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newsletter, and speaking at an all-school assembly. Additionally, they tended our school pollinator garden."

Harrington Elementary School

Lexington

"It helps to put their school work, like biology, math, life science, into real life examples and helps them to see that they can do little things every day to help decrease waste and improve the environment around them. Our students worked on learning about the importance of soil health and how we need to treat our soil as a living organism. We worked on composting our garden plants and fruit waste. We set up a fish tank and monitored the water and learned about closed systems and how we can use the wastewater from fish tanks to fertilize our indoor and outplants. We left the leaves in our garden beds providing a home for invertebrates over the winter. We really focused on closed systems, food chains and food webs and our part as humans in them."

Brookside Intensive Treatment Unit

Great Barrington

"The Green Team reduced waste in cafeteria by starting a food rescue initiative."

Ambrose Elementary School

Winchester

"The students benefitted from knowing they were working on activities to improve environmental sustainability in our town. The school benefits from eating produce grown in the school garden in their lunches. This year, the Andover High School Environmental Club organized a clothing swap and toy drive, helped to organize and run a town-wide Youth Sustainability Fair, worked in the school's sustainable garden, collected bottles for the EcoBrick program, made a fish sculpture from recycled materials, engaged in the MYCC Lobby Day to lobby environmental bills at the State House, and participated in a beach cleanup."

Andover High School

Andover

"We created a nice community that is open to all types of children. Loved the passion that our group showed when we gathered."

Angier Elementary School

Waban



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"Participation at our before school meetings is up a great deal since last year. Students are enthusiastic and have felt like they've made a difference. The read aloud we'll be doing at our earth day assembly will hopefully inspire others to make a difference by caring for a natural space (no matter how small) somewhere that they care about. It's great to see such enthusiasm in such young students. Our first/second grade students are excited to join Green Team once they are in third grade."

Atkinson Elementary School

North Andover

"The students learned a lot about what we can do to save our planet. In addition to things we are already doing at our school that they might not have even known about. Students also created hydroponics and we're growing leafy greens within our school"

Ayers Ryal Side Elementary School

Beverly

"The students were able to put what they'd learned about decomposition and the exchange of energy and nutrients using models and media into genuine practice. The work of collecting green and brown waste for both the worms and the outdoor bins has united each division of our school, and opened up lesson extensions into math as well as social studies. The younger students are empowered to share what they've learned with the broader community, and everyone feels empowered when they contribute to our school's benefit. Please keep doing the great work you're doing."

Bancroft School

Worcester

"Our students benefit from the responsibility and the expectations that whole school has around our recycling efforts. The 5th graders learn responsibility with the privilege of going around the building on their own as they collect recycling from classrooms."

Bartlett Community Partnership School

Lowell

"The school as a whole will benefit from the compost and recycling programs by seeing a reduction in solid waste, as well as having hands on opportunities for learning about sustainable practices. The sustainability committee's continued partnership with Williams College also exposes students to the potential for sustainable practices at a large scale organization."

Berkshire Arts and Technology

Charter Public School

Adams



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"Our school community benefits from this work because it builds ownership and responsibility within our students as they learn how to take care of our school, community, and planet. Sixth graders are the oldest in our building and they got to experience leadership opportunities as they spread the word about Green Team initiatives. We've been able to reduce waste in our school through streamlining or recycling and composting efforts. I really appreciate all of the resources available, and there are many left to explore."

Blanchard Memorial School

Westford

"The students at Blueberry Hill benefit greatly from these activities as they actively engage in hands-on efforts to protect the environment. By participating in the shoe drive, plastic collection, candy wrapper collection, and writing utensil collection, students learn the importance of recycling and reducing waste, which helps foster a sense of environmental responsibility. Additionally, their involvement in supporting the school's composting program provides them with valuable knowledge about sustainable practices and the impact of composting on reducing landfill waste. These activities not only empower students to make a positive difference in their community but also encourage them to adopt eco-friendly habits that will benefit the planet for years to come."

Blueberry Hill School

Longmeadow

"This year was especially rewarding as we were nominated by the Massachusetts DEP as a Green Ribbon school, and we are awaiting news from the Federal EPA to learn if we are a Federal Green Ribbon School. We spent most of the year focused on finishing our application for the nomination, which consisted of copious amounts of data collection and self-analysis"

Cohasset High School

Cohasset

"Our school community continued our commitment to Green Initiatives. This year the Conant Green Team restarted our composting program. We hosted a blanket and towel drive for a local animal shelter. Facilitated a trash walk, cleaning up the grounds of our school. Reminded students in the school to use reusable water bottles and take only what they needed in the cafeteria to reduce our use of plastic utensils and straws. They presented multiple times at our All School Meetings about these various initiatives."

Luther Conant Elementary School

Acton



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"The recycling contains no trash, the trash contains minimal recyclables. School-wide awareness of the recycling and how much is used/recycled each day has increased. This was the start-up of a Green Team at Conwell School. The students researched our waste stream and recycling collection, explored what other schools have done, identified ways we could improve our cafeteria recycling, met with the Cafeteria Manager, the Custodian, and the Principal, created informational posters, created narrated educational slideshows and made a re-design of the cafeteria recycling system."

R. H. Conwell Elementary School

Worthington

"The Green Team learned why and how to recycle since new recycling bins were added to the cafeteria and recycling vs. trash signs were added to the school. The students in fifth grade helped to support green actions. They made posters about recycling and created projects from upcycling (made bird feeders, maracas, and pencil holders)."

Countryside Elementary School

Newton Heights

"The students felt enormous pride at being able to compost as much as they were able to this year, and many of them took their jobs as Green Team members to heart at home as well as at school. They perfected their routine with composting at lunch. We also addressed issues with certain grades and wasteful food disposal."

Sargent Elementary School

North Andover

"Classroom recycling ambassadors (a volunteer position) managed recycling for their classrooms. Many will participate in decorating Earth Day bags for local supermarkets (upcoming activity). We couldn't manage our school recycling without classroom helpers."

Dale Street School

Medfield

"Increased eco-awareness; Student agency; Education to make better and more informed choices."

William Diamond Middle School

Lexington



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"Students are now more aware of how much trash we create. They are thinking about reducing and reusing and also recycling properly."

Dual Language School

Waltham

"Students are being role models for all of the school. They are understanding that their goals need to be attainable and small steps can have an impact. Students completed self-reflection and set goals on what they can do to help make the earth healthier. Students organized and completed two trash pick-ups around our school, fall and spring. Students helped custodial staff with weekly recycling and refundable can pick up to donate to cans for calcium. Students helped in the cafeteria morning and afternoon with compost, share table and trash organizing."

Charlotte A. Dunning Elementary School

Framingham

"The Green Team provided a unifying mission for us to focus on, and the resources helped provide action steps and a plan of attack. Very student friendly and easy to cater to the students and our school specifically."

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School

South Yarmouth

"The students have learned that everyone needs to step up to stop pollution and take care of the planet."

East Longmeadow High School

East Longmeadow

"The students have a better understanding of waste and how to eliminate it from day-to-day activities. Along the way they learned all about how we get our food and how plants help us. We learned all about plants structures and functions. We have planted both wildflowers and beans, radishes. We have started learning all about pollinators. We have reduced the amount of plastic and recycled and reused plastic already here in our classrooms."

Eastham Elementary School

Eastham

"These activities not only nurtured academic and personal growth for the students but also made the school a hub of environmental responsibility and innovation. Significant focus on the greenhouse, including cleanup attempts and plant care activities—it's great to see students connecting directly with nature. Recycling initiatives, including bin collections, ornament



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crafting with reused materials, and paper art projects. These hands-on activities are both creative and eco-conscious. Joint meetings with the Bio Club demonstrate the power of cross-club collaboration. It's a wonderful way to encourage interdisciplinary learning and teamwork. Participating in events like open houses and supporting causes like "Tree-Plenish" and cell phone donations for gorillas highlights the club's commitment to wider environmental impact. There's been a robust attendance record throughout the year."

Greater Lowell Technical High School

Tyngsborough

"All of our programs are completely sustainable for our students. Students are always at the forefront of the discussions and choose the projects that they feel best serve the needs the school and community. All of our activities have increased awareness of the importance of recycling, reusing, and reducing. The students learn leaderships skills and mentor others in the school."

Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School

Peabody

"Students learned about the actions they can take in their lives to help our earth and our environment both through small changes and potential future careers. We educated about sustainability and carbon emissions, we led a fair trade equal exchange fundraiser, we attended a Youth Environmental Leadership conference, we organized a trip to a carbon neutral house, we helped increase composting in other schools in our district, and we planned an Earth Week"

Norwood High School

Norwood

"The education from the daily Green Week themes educated the school. The kids in the Green Team learned about upcycling and gardening. We had Trash-Free Tuesday every Tuesday since February. We also organized our third annual Green Week, where we raised money for our garden by selling eco-friendly/upcycled items (the kids made the upcycled items, like necklaces and magnets). We also continued to plan vegetables and flowers."

Furnace Brook Middle School

Marshfield

"More and more students start understanding that they can make a difference and are advocating for the planet. It is so rewarding to see, I'm so proud of them! This year we focused our cafeteria actions on saving the trays - with approx. 300 students having lunch during 180 school days that's nearly 55,000 trays that can be saved from the landfill and can be turned into



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compost instead. I can't wait until we can reintroduce composting & combine it with reducing food waste. This will be huge!"

William L. Foster Elementary School

Hingham

"They loved connecting with the land. We improved our school garden and connected with the community."

Francis Wyman Elementary School

Burlington

"Students gained an increased appreciation for the environment and understanding of the composting process. Student volunteers were engaged and proud of the work they did to help trash/compost sorting at lunches. Students were able to take home something planted using compost. Student volunteers in each grade helped at lunches to efficiently sort trash from compost to ensure success. Using compost created for school lunches, students planted seedlings to grow at home."

Franklin Elementary School

North Andover

"Being part of Green Team helps the student learn about recycling in school and in turn they talked about how they've started recycling more at home. Our students met 3 Times a week to empty recycling bins in all classrooms and offices in our school. They worked with custodians to break down boxes. At lunches the assist with composting."

Robert Frost Elementary School

Lawrence

"The students and school benefited from the activities by educating the school (and town!) community about important environmental causes: waste reduction and diversion, invasive and native plants, and reuse and repair. I am proud of all this team accomplished this year!"

Gibbs School

Arlington

"We composted some kitchen scraps in the classroom worm bin. Created tri-folds for classrooms to show students the difference between recycled materials and nonrecyclable. They enjoyed have a job that counts in the school."

Hannah Elementary School

Beverly



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"Students benefited by learning about the importance of taking care of the earth, keeping reusable or re-cyclable items out of the landfill & being part of the school community (taking care of the playground as a collective)."

Hardy Elementary School

Arlington

"Because we are a therapeutic special education high school, we are unique in the flexibility of our programming and our hands-on curriculum, which have enabled students to collaborate with several community organizations on environmental projects. We have been able to continue to expand our green culture through student, community, and teacher initiatives. Students have benefited from their environmental activities in multiple ways. First, they have felt a sense of empowerment about their positive contributions to and impact on the larger community. They have taken direct, local actions to address climate change and have felt proud that they have had a hand in creating a culture of reuse, recycling, and environmental responsibility. And they regularly hear encouragement and appreciation from community members in response to their efforts. The Friends of Northampton Trails, The Northampton ReUse Committee, the Huntington Village Closet, Catholic Charities, Manna Community Kitchen, and Kiwanis have all given our students encouraging feedback that has shown them how valuable their efforts are. Second, they have built a sense of community and collaboration around these projects, which has deepened their friendships with each other and their relationships with other community members. Older students mentor newer students as they work together toward a greener future. Third, students have built skills: knowledge about ecological technologies, food waste, recycling, growing and harvesting food through our school garden, etc.; communication and graphics (advertising events, making composting and recycling posters, etc.); leadership and project management skills; collaboration and relationship-building skills; etc. Overall, students have increasingly identified with and built a green culture within our school, and their actions have become more automatic. They have built green habits, like bringing thermoses to events, refrigerating or composting uneaten food, collecting cans and bottles to recycle, working together to design new resource-preserving projects, and helping new students to understand how to be a part of our school community. All of these habits have contributed to our students' identity as climate change activists and organizers."

Collaborative for Educational Services - HEC Academy

Northampton

"They are learning more about how to make a difference in our community, even its just by starting small. It has made them more aware of where things go and why we put them there."



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Our amazing kiddos have been steadfast with helping keep Underwood Green! We have set up compost bins, shiny foil shipping for school funds, stretchy plastic recycling and trash pick up outside our school!"

Underwood Elementary School

Newton
Corner

"The students have learned to appreciate the foods that they eat. They know what happens to plants and animals during the seasons and what humans, plants and animals need to survive. We learned about the seasons and how plants, animals and farms changed along with them. We discussed and explored the life cycles and the parts of various plants. We will be growing seeds and discussing how to care for the earth in upcoming lessons."

Barry School

Chicopee

"Students benefited from learning about how actions they take can affect their environment. Students learned that each one of us can make a positive difference and positive impact on our environment. Students learned about energy efficiency; with cars, light bulbs and transportation. Students learned about buying local produce and how buying local benefits the environment. Students learned about public transportation options (and participated in taking public transportation to a destination) and how using public transportation benefits the environment by emitting less carbon emissions into the atmosphere."

Chicopee High School

Chicopee

"Environmental Awareness & Responsibility – Through hands-on activities like the Pumpkin Rescue, Plant Rescue, and Textile Recycling Competition, students learned the importance of waste reduction, composting, and sustainable practices. These experiences helped foster a sense of responsibility for the environment. Hands-On Learning – The enrichment programs on pollination and water quality provided interactive and educational experiences, deepening students' understanding of important ecological topics beyond the classroom. Creativity & Innovation – Activities like making Valentine's cards from recycled materials and transforming T-shirts into tote bags encouraged students to think creatively about how to repurpose and reuse materials. Community Engagement & Teamwork – Partnering with groups like the Girl Scouts, Arlington Welcome Center, and school-wide initiatives helped students feel connected to their community while working toward shared sustainability goals. Literacy & Knowledge Sharing –



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The Book Rescue & Swap promoted literacy, making books accessible to more students while reinforcing the idea of reusing rather than discarding. Hands-on Sustainability Practices – The school-wide cleanup and garden maintenance efforts provided direct experience in caring for nature, fostering a sense of pride and stewardship among students. Practical Life Skills – Learning about recycling, reducing waste, and sustainable fashion choices through the clothing swap and textile recycling competition equipped students with habits they can carry into adulthood. School-Wide Culture of Sustainability – The seminar for parents and faculty helped integrate the Green Team's mission into the broader school community, encouraging long-term commitment to sustainability. Overall, these activities empowered students to be proactive environmental stewards, enhanced their learning experience, and helped make the school a greener, more sustainable place."

John A. Bishop Elementary School

Arlington

"The students learn more about protecting the environment and develop leadership skills."

Jonas Clarke Middle School

Lexington

"My students learned a lot about their environmental footprint and how their daily activities impact the world they live in. They learned about natural resources and why it is important to protect them. They also learned about cost/ benefit analysis and that in environmental protection/science, there are no quick and easy analysis- everyone is a stakeholder, but the ultimate goal is to save our planet and our resources. My students created a school wide recycling program including paper and plastics. They also calculated carbon emissions from their vehicles in the school parking lots."

Leicester High School

Leicester

"The Green Team benefited by reducing waste and planting with our compost soil and EDUCATION about the process."

Kittredge Elementary School

North

Andover

"The students benefited in several ways. They worked together a community to accomplish a goal of being better to our environment by composting, growing their own veggies, and helping others. Our school started a food waste program and share table. Our older students helped to



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guide our younger students when it was time to start putting our food waste into it's own bin, by helping them sort their trash, food and liquids. My third graders helped to create short videos to share school wide to help teach our whole school.

Our school garden is once again getting started with our Kindergarten students who are starting the seeds, which our fifth graders will plant when the time comes. In the summer our summer school students help to weed, water and harvest. Any food that is left over from the harvest is brought to our local food pantry. I love the support from Green Team."

Lee Elementary School

Lee

"Students learned more about how they can impact their direct community. They learned about advocacy and leadership. Then they shared their learning with the larger school community. This year we formed a Green Team led by student interest. They learned about the impact of littering on animals/plants, soil and water pollution. They made educational posters and talking points to share at a school wide assembly in April which is part of our Earth Day work."

Lincoln-Eliot

Newton

"We now have a recycling program! And signage that helps students and faculty understand what to do with their waste. Students are also more appreciative of the school campus grounds, because they have participated in efforts to keep the space clean. Students are already talking about building a school garden for next year. We worked with our school leadership and facilities team to establish a school-wide recycling program. Students also worked tirelessly in the fall, and now in the start of spring, to beautify campus by organizing campus cleanups and plantings of native plant species to support local pollinators."

Lowell Catholic

Lowell

"Students are more conscientious about their environment and are able to make more informed choices regarding their carbon footprint."

Somerset Middle School

Somerset

"The reduction of waste we saw a great increase and the connection of the children to their community and the land they live on. The children and families did a trash cleaned up for our community, we set up a community garden, recycling and compost bin. We encourage a no idling area for pick up and drop off. We worked to reuse textiles and fabric."



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Marigold Montessori School

Haverhill

"The primary focus was to gather new members and create awareness of the club's activities. We started in the dark dull days of February. It also helps to beautify the school and improve air quality. Students created and designed a school wide planting positivity Activity. Where any student could come and plant sunflower seeds. They are now placed purposefully place in windows around the inside of the school growing tall. Students will take them home after graduation."

Marshfield High School

Marshfield

"As a school community, we successfully began using reusable trays for all lunches. Students sorted their food waste from their trash and recycling and brought their lunch trays to the dish room area to be cleaned and sanitized. According to our lunchroom custodian, we used to produce 12 bags of trash during lunch. We are now down to 3-4 bags. That is a 70% reduction in trash we're sending to the landfill - not to mention we are no longer supporting the production of Styrofoam trays and keeping the methane producing food waste from the landfill."

Mashpee Middle-High School

Mashpee

"The Green Team has created a schoolwide initiative to support our school in upcycling, recycling and waste reduction. We are learning in art class how to start an art project with 'trash' and plan an art show with this theme for next year."

Newton

Memorial Spaulding Elementary School

Centre

"Students benefit from the activities by working together in a coordinated (sometimes chaotic) and focused way that allows time for exploration, creativity defining and analyzing problems, planning and carrying out investigations of interest and importance. The students and community also benefit by simply being exposed to extremely important issues and ways that those issues can be addressed individually and locally."

Manchester Essex Regional High School

Manchester



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"Students get a sense of belonging, socializing during program and going on hikes, etc. They get community service hours."

Middleborough High School

Middleborou
gh

"The Green Team benefitted from the teamwork and collaboration. Understanding waste and the importance of recycling. The third grade team with our custodian took responsibility in emptying all recycling bins from all the classrooms."

Mullen-Hall School

Falmouth

"We are learning how to save energy and conserve resources to heal our planet. We made small but mighty improvements this year. We planted a serviceberry tree in our courtyard to replace a dead tree. We had a community volunteer teach us about compost and demonstrate how to do it properly."

English High School

Jamaica Plain

"The students benefited from the lessons and units with enthusiasm and excitement. The projects reinforced the belief that the Earth is our home and we need to take care of the Earth. My STEAM program worked on many different "Green Team" activities. We really focused on the rainforest and "First nations" people and how the Earth was an important resource for our livelihood. I worked with the staff to highlight their work educating the students and created a series of projects to give thanks to the Earth."

Pine Cobble School

Williamstown

"My students loved learning ways to protect the earth and reduce our waste. We talked about healthy ways to use energy and wasteful ways to use energy."

Ambrose Elementary School

Winchester

"Students deepened their understanding of how we can better care for our planet. Students explored animal habitats and discovered effective ways to help protect them."

Bernardston Elementary School

Bernardston



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"Our Green Team has been busy making a positive impact! They organized a crayon drive to collect and repurpose old crayons into new ones for others to enjoy. Members designed and created green aprons and lanyards to wear while helping in the cafeteria. They also made posters and morning announcement slides to encourage recycling and composting throughout the school. Using compost, they've started to plant greenery around the school building, helping make our environment a little brighter and a lot greener!"

North Andover Middle School

North Andover

"They have a newfound passion for taking care of the environment and are encouraging their family members to take action at home now! Hosted a Plastic Free Lunch Day, wrote letters to the Superintendent and School Committee to advocate for a plastic-free cafeteria, daily composting in the classroom, supported cafeteria composting, made Earth Day awareness posters, hosted a used clothing drive."

Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School

Newburyport

"The Green Team planted a Moon Tree from NASA. The entire school will be able to watch this unique tree grow!"

Brookside Elementary School

Dracut

"My students benefited from the learning by participating in the Eversource Student Challenge. They created posters, limericks, and billboard posters with essays to showcase their knowledge and promote change. My students have been learning about renewable and non-renewable resources, energy efficiency light bulbs, and different ways they can conserve energy at home and at school."

Federal Street School

Greenfield

"They learn what should be recycled and about plastic pollution. Our students are very excited about our Green Team recycling efforts and teaching the other students about how best to recycle."

South Shore Christian Academy

East Weymouth



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"The students are always learning ways to take responsibility for the health and well-being of our local flora and fauna. By reducing our trash, studying food sources, planting, and really participating in our waste management, they are recognizing the power they have to make a positive impact. We are lucky to be situated on a campus with access to forests, farms, and meadows. Our school hosts two clothing swaps a year which not only helps our families find useful items for their growing children but also benefits our planet. Bringing awareness to our consumer driven habits and how they impact our environment is another learning opportunity for adults especially! Due to the generous donation of composting bins and bags, our entire school has been composting this year. Students visit our local composting facilities and learn about the process and work on awareness campaigns at all of our events. We have always recycled and the responsibility of collecting the recycling is handled by our 5th grade students. They are obsessed with their job and always look for ways to recycle more materials. Our students in the younger grades have their own gardens in their playgrounds and plant and harvest throughout the year for their lunches. In grades 1 through 5 we have access to a larger garden where we teach science lessons, land stewardship and agriculture."

Waldorf School at Moraine Farm

Beverly

"We have removed at least 550 gallons (10 55-gallon totes) worth of recyclable materials from the trash. At the beginning of the year, students made signs describing what was recyclable. Once a week, my students collect recycling for the entire school. They put the bin out for collection, then set them up for the next week."

Beebe School

Malden

"We were more conscious about what and how much we were throwing away and people began to get more creative with supplies and waste less! We created a recycling program that students participated in by bringing their class's recycling and dumping it into the communal bin."

Newton Early Childhood Program

Newton

"Greater awareness of local steps to take, pride in getting recycling better functioning at our school, and further awareness of steps students and staff can take today based on what they will learn at our Earth Day. Also recruited additional students to work together on these initiatives. Reinforced our recycling program by creating a new video, distributing signs and bins in all classrooms, and following up with our custodians. Piloted a new compost program in our



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kitchen. Designed and ran an Earth Day event, with multiple local organizations and leaders attending, that corresponded with MA Campus Car-Free Day (next month). Also kept a school garden going."

Newton South High School

Newton

"Our students held bake sales to benefit a local green organization (Groundwork Lawrence), we applied compost to the school community garden, we organized a hike, we made signs to hang up around the school to encourage composting, we hung up mobiles of the compostable items in the cafe, we participated in campus and town wide clean ups, painted 4 tables for the cafe where students can stack their trays to save space in the composting bins, we helped organize and support an electronics recycling drive. School benefits: Applying compost to the school garden enhanced soil health and plant growth, demonstrating a real-world application of waste reduction. Signs and mobiles in the café encouraged more students to compost, helping shift behaviors toward sustainability. Clean-up events directly improved the school environment, making it more welcoming and setting an example for others. Supporting local organizations and engaging in community efforts helped position the school as a leader in environmental responsibility.

Student benefits: Organizing bake sales, cleanups, and awareness campaigns helped students develop leadership, teamwork, and project management skills. Researching composting, sustainability, and local green initiatives deepened students' understanding of environmental issues. Designing compost signs and mobiles encouraged creativity while teaching students how to communicate sustainability concepts effectively."

North Andover High School

North Andover

"The program allowed students to take leadership roles in the district and the classroom to manage the recycling program, as well as spread the programs efforts to all areas of the building. Students were able to interact with the staff and administration and help promote a stronger approach to programming in the district. Northeast Metro Tech took on a strong initiative of increasing recycling throughout the district. Students in the Environmental Science courses led the school in organizing recycling bins, recycling pickup, and data collection."

Northeast Metro Regional Vocational School

Wakefield



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"We have a huge cut down on waste from composting. We got our whole school into composting and using bugs to breakdown compost in different ways."

Norwood Montessori School

Norwood

"Students now understand which materials should go into the different bins in the school. Prior to this year students were often misplacing trash in the incorrect barrels and causing recycling to be contaminated with non-recyclable materials. In addition, our school garden has been neglected for several years and was completely overgrown. This spring we have cleared the garden out and prepared it for planting this spring. This year the Green Team re-established the recycling program at Oak Hill Middle School. The program needed to be re-established after several years of not functioning effectively."

Oak Hill Middle School

Newton Centre

"The students and school benefited from the activities by educating the school community about important environmental causes: waste reduction and diversion, invasive and native plants, keeping our oceans clean and safe! The Ottoson Middle School Green Team did so much this year! We engaged in regular litter clean ups and collaborated with the Arlington Invasives Group to remove invasive plants and plant native plants in the woods bordering the school and in the school's garden. The students contributed to a display about invasive and native plants that was in our town's library. We also visited the Swap Shed at our Reuse & Recycling Center and learned about reuse activities in our town from Arlington's Recycling Coordinator. The Green Team students also participated in our Lunch Leaders program, assisting their peers daily in sorting their lunch waste. They also created an educational video for the school about why we sort waste and how to do it correctly. Most recently the team collaborated with the art club to create an Earth Day celebration and fundraiser at the school. This included making an Earth Day design for t-shirts (which we screen printed!), sewing ocean creatures, baking goods and creating giant painted whales and dolphins. All proceeds went to WDC (Whale and Dolphin Conservation USA). The students will also soon help spread the word and participate in our annual textile recycling competition."

Ottoson Middle School

Arlington

"We manage a composting program in our school. A local vendor picks it up and takes it to local farms. This year, in the fall, we presented about our composting operations in Boston at the Boston University Data Center. We manage a composting program in our school. A local



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vendor picks it up and takes it to local farms. They learned about biogeochemical cycles, creating a presentation, and how to manage a composting program in a large building."

Pittsfield High School

Pittsfield

"The kids (and adults) had a blast, took action, and got inspired along the way. Other activities we conducted were a pumpkin composting event, a food waste visit from the high school composting program, gardening, and a town-wide visit to the Town swap shed."

Peirce Elementary School

Arlington

"The students benefited first by learning about recycling and what should and should not go into the bins. They also helped each classroom and the school as a whole get back into recycling. We were learning about the sustainability of the rainforest, in ELA so they understood the significance of recycling paper products made out of wood from trees. They also learned to help the custodian as he emptied out the smaller recycle bins into the larger bins and transported them to the front of the school for the weekly recycle truck pick. They feel empowered to contribute to making their school, neighborhood and world a better place to live in. This my students upgraded the recycling program, we got new recycle bins for the classrooms, offices, hallways, and the cafeteria. We labeled them for each class and put signs on them depicting what items should go inside the bins. My scholars delivered the bins to each location and gave a speech about our project and what we did. They also taught the classes about what things were recyclable and what things were not."

John D. Philbrick Elementary School

Roslindale

"Our fifth graders benefitted by sharing their composting expertise in class when they learned about ecosystems. All of our members benefitted when we used the compost and the tea to grow new plants. Our newest endeavor was starting our worm farm. It has been amazing to watch how the worms make so many items 'disappear.' They are certainly very busy as long as we keep them nice and moist."

Frost Middle School

Lawrence

"They love the worm composting we are doing in the classroom. We planted plants in small pots. We have been observing the natural decay of a jack o lantern."

Litwin Elementary School

Chicopee



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"Less trash, more compost; the students helped create educational materials for all grades and got everyone excited to compost! The 8th grade helped lead our whole school to school-wide composting this year!"

John D. Runkle Elementary School

Brookline

"The entire school has more awareness about the benefits of recycling to our immediate neighborhoods as well as the effects of pollution and trash on our planet. Grades 5 & 6 collected classroom recycling bins from every classroom and emptied them into the recycle dumpster. They made posters and signs for each classroom. Students in grade 6 are building a model solar powered car."

St. Patrick School

Lowell

"They are learning about recycling and gardening. They are also learning to care for a pet and how much work it can be. Also citizen scientist since we raise endangered turtles. We collect all redeemable bottle to help reduce school waste and also fund out endangered turtle program. This year we have added a worm compost bin to one classroom! Waste from the turtles goes into it, and the dirt will help with out gardening efforts to increase pollinator gardens on our campus area."

Hingham Middle School

Hingham

"The students benefited on a social emotional level as well as it tied into the 5th grade curriculum. We continue our cafeteria compost program."

Joseph G. Luther Elementary School

Swansea

"Our students benefit greatly by seeing how it is important to help those in need by providing food or winter items. One of our pillars is respect and by giving food to those hungry show how much they respect the members of the local community and want them to improve the lives by making sure they have enough to eat. St. Mary's students care about the needs of others. Weekly, students go the Dining Common and put the leftover salads, meals, etc. in a community refrigerator which conveniently is located in a section of our parking lot. Members of our community know that they can take what they need. After bake sales, a teacher brings the



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remaining baked items to My Brother's Table to provide a treat for dessert for those who stop in for a meal. Regularly, our Rachel's Challenge members make hundreds of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless. The annual hat/mitten/sock drive provides hundreds of items of warmth to those who need it. In addition, each classroom has a recycle bin for paper and plastic."

St. Mary's High School

Lynn

"Stratton students and their families will be able to harvest fresh vegetables and herbs later this year. Families also collected pumpkins for composting, saving them from going into trash. Stratton students and their families participated in the beautification of the school grounds, planting flower bulbs and picking up trash. Various vegetable and herb plants will be planted this spring as well."

Stratton Elementary School

Arlington

"We recycle more. We produced less plastic waste. We reduced our need for new supplies. We got exercise and learned about ecology. We continued to support our recycling measures to increase recycling. We had plastic free lunch days. We reused school supplies with a school supply drive at the end of last year. We walked in the woods and educated about the environment."

Lynch Elementary at Parkhurst School

Winchester

"Our team has grown. Enthusiasm and awareness of issues has grown. Our main efforts have been: invasive species replacement on school grounds, cafeteria waste food collection for recycling at a local farm, battery recycling, plastic bag recycling, pen recycling, we made a waste stream educational video and showed it to all students 6-12, we designed and implemented a Goose Chase like week-long scavenger hunt with prizes and themes each day for our "Earth spirit week", we are going to do our second annual climate lesson for the 5th graders, we are showing the "Biggest Little Farm" to 6th and 7th grade, we collected idling data before and after a campaign to put in no idling signs on campus, we work with the local government on many projects they have concerning bylaws for preserving large trees and EVs amongst other things, and we have students who are presenting EnRoads and other things at the Youth Sustainability fair in CT April 26th."

The Bromfield School

Harvard



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"Created lessons about recycling, water run off, and extinction then went to elementary schools to teach the lesson. We shared environmentally friendly ideas."

Wahconah Regional High School

Dalton

"The Green Team benefited by learning, talking about and engaging students in these (and other) activities and topics, students increase their awareness, concern and motivation to take environmentally friendly actions and to help others learn to do the same. Hosted an EverSource program on energy efficiency, learned and talked about ways to limit trash and to reuse and recycle, created bins for collection of extra Halloween candy and old/broken art supplies to be donated/recycled, assisted with other recycling/repurposing of materials around school, cleaned up areas around school, made morning announcements with tips on how to "be green."

Vinson-Owen Elementary School

Winchester

"There has been a noticeable reduction in trash in our bins. Our playground and grounds are cleaner (teams picked up and became more aware of reducing trash). Created a story to share in classrooms on making walking to school more fun! We are still working on creating a student driven video teaching the 3 R's, etc. Several times, had large items left by neighbors removed from dumpster area. Increased awareness and use of Helpsy bins."

John Ward Elementary School

Newton Centre

"All students at our school learned to compost and about the value of composting not only through lunch volunteers who would stand and educate them but also through educational materials. We raise awareness about our Earth Week through social media and posters around school. We also raise awareness through our advisory program. Students are encouraged to take part in walk/ride/carpool to school day by taking part in a raffle and winning prizes. Just the members of the green team benefitted from the dahlia activity. We organized and raised money for a total composting program, which composts all our food and paper plates. The program costs roughly \$4k a year because we use Black Earth Compost to pick up once a week. We raised money initially from Village Bank and then from the Wayland Schools Foundation. We need to fund next year's program and are trying to get the School Committee to make it part of the school's budget. We also ran our third annual Slow Fashion show, which highlights the value of thrifting and repurposing the problems of fast fashion. One of our green team members ran a Climate FRESK activity in several classrooms as part of her NHS project. We will organize our



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own Earth Week in the week after April vacation. Every day there will be an earth focused activity: a guest speaker (we just raised money from a grant to pay for this), walk/ride/carpool to school day, clean up trash day, environmental workshops at the local library for elementary school kids. Several of our students took part in a dahlia growing fundraiser. We grew dahlias in our garden and then picked them for local older people. We are storing the bulbs over the winter and will sell them at our local garden center as a fundraiser."

Wayland High School

Wayland