



# THE GREEN TEAM LIBRARY

**THE GREEN TEAM**  
1242 Main Street Suite 413  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413) 731-6546 Phone  
(413) 734-3475 Fax

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

[www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org)

## Introduction

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection provides a GREEN TEAM library of videos, books, curriculum, recycling activity kits, and general solid waste resources for loan to Massachusetts educators. Our goal is to support and promote school recycling education and programs by making these materials available to teachers. A brief description is provided for each item.

## How do I use the library?

1. Fill out the Material Request Form for the items you wish to borrow.

2. Submit the form by mail or fax to:

**THE GREEN TEAM**  
1242 Main Street 4th Floor  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413) 734-3475 fax

3. You will be contacted to confirm your requested loan.



## Standard loan policies are listed below:

- Any book, video, or curricula can be borrowed for a period of 2 weeks. These materials will be delivered and returned by the U.S. Mail.
- Any educator who wishes to take out a "Recycling Activity Kit" can borrow it for a maximum of 5 weeks. Upon the signing out of a kit the educational institution must provide THE GREEN TEAM library with a \$25 deposit check which will be returned to the borrower upon return of the fully intact kit. The activity kit will be made available through DEP regional offices. The borrower will be notified about making arrangements for pick up of the kit. To return the kit, follow the return instructions included. Once the kit has been received and checked in, the deposit check will be returned to the borrower.
- Materials are limited and will be loaned on a first come, first served basis. You may reserve an item for loan at a future time, pending availability.

## Contact:

Chelsea Warywoski at [recycle@thegreenteam.org](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org) or (413)731-6546 with questions or requests.



## Books

### Solid Waste-Recycling

#### **Where does the Garbage Go?**

Grade: K-3 Length: 32 pages

Source: Paul Showers, 1991

*This book explains the life cycle of garbage past and present and some of today's recycling processes.*

#### **Trash**

Grade: K-4 Length: 40 pages

Source: Charlotte Wilcox, 1988

*Provides mind-boggling statistics as the author takes you through the exciting world of trash!*

#### **The Great Trash Bag**

Grade: K-3 Length: 39 pages

Source: Loreen Leedy, 1991

*In this youth orientated book a group of animals try to save their town of Beaston from trash.*

#### **The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks**

Grade: K-3 Length: 39 pages

Source: Joanna Cole, 1986

*A fun look at where water comes from, how it gets to us, and keeping it clean.*

#### **Recycle! A Handbook for Kids**

Grade: K-4 Length: 30 pages

Source: Gail Gibbons, 1992

*That the items we use are made of, which do we recycle and where do they go after the recycling truck picks them up. A behind the scenes look at recycling.*

#### **The Adventure of a Garbage Gremlin**

Grade: 4-7 Length: 15 pages

Source: EPA

*A fun comic strip, with an activity sheet at the end, that teaches students how to reduce waste and recycle to combat a life of grime.*

#### **The Scrap Map**

Grade: K-6 Length: 16 pages

Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

*Focuses on the importance of recycling and conserving resources in the classroom and at home.*

### Composting

#### **Compost! Growing Gardens from your Garbage**

Grade: K-3 Length: 32 pages

Source: Linda Glaser, 1996

*Discusses the reasons for composting in a fun and simple narrative.*

## Books

### Composting (Continued)

#### **Worms Eat My Garbage**

Grade: K-12 Length: 82 pages

Source: Mary Applehoff

*Provides a comprehensive description of how to set up a vermicomposting system.*

#### **Wonderful Worms**

Grade: K-2 Length: 30 pages

Source: Linda Glaser, 1992

*Simple and fun description of worms and how they work.*

## Curricula

### Solid Waste-Recycling

#### **Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness**

Grade: all Length: 141 pages

Source: EPA

*The lesson plans in this curriculum guide are based upon those that emerged as part of a public education campaign to promote recycling awareness in Somerville, MA. This program was a great success and is now used as a guide for other schools to follow.*

#### **Solid Waste Management Resource Guide**

Grade: all Length: 267 pages

Source: Massachusetts DEP

*This curriculum covers many different areas of solid waste management and environmental awareness for school systems.*

#### **Bottle Biology**

Grade: 1-8 Length: 119 pages

Source: Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, 1993

*Explores science and the environment using soda bottles and other recyclable materials.*

#### **Chameleon Condos: Critters and Critical Thinking**

Grade: 1-8 Length: 56 pages

Source: Craig Berg, 1999

*Provides instructions to build and use small critter habitats made from recycled 2-liter bottles!*

#### **Ecology Crafts for Kids**

Grade: K-6 Length: 144 pages

Source: Bobbe Needham, 1998

*Earth friendly crafts to do with children using recycled materials.*



## Curricula (Continued)

### Composting

#### **School Composting Resource Package**

Grade: K-12 Length: 40 pages

Source: Massachusetts DEP

*Lesson plans, background information and resources on composting with students.*

#### **Composting**

##### **Scraps to Soil: A How-To Guide for School Composting**

Grade: 3-6 Length: 19 pages

Source: Association of VT Recyclers

*Introduces how to develop, implement, and monitor a school compost project.*

##### **Compost! Because a Rind is a Terrible Thing to Waste**

Grade: 9-12 Length: 65 Pages

Source: Cornell Cooperative Ext.

*Provides detailed guidance for larger institutions (schools) and businesses (grocery stores) to implement a food scrap-composting program.*

##### **Composting in the Classroom: Scientific Inquiry for High School Students**

Grade: 9-12 Length: 22 pages

Source: Cornell Waste Mgmt., 1998

## Videos & DVDs

### Climate Change

#### **An Inconvenient Truth (DVD only)**

Grade: 7-Adult Length: 96 minutes

Source: Paramount Classics

*Former Vice President Al Gore's documentary presents an overview of the impacts of global warming on our civilization and planet. It offers changes we can make to become part of the solution.*

### Solid Waste-Recycling

#### **Recycle. A little effort...A big difference. Recycling in Massachusetts (Video & DVD, in English or Spanish)**

Grade: K-12 Length: 11:43 minutes (English)

15:27 minutes (Spanish)

Source: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection with the city of Lawrence, 2004

*Explains why recycling is important for our health, economy and the environment in every community in MA and how individuals can help. Shows how recycling provides jobs and products, saves money and reduces the need for landfills and incinerators.*

## Videos & DVDs (Continued)

#### **Your Recycling Efforts Won't Go To Waste-Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (Video & DVD)**

Grade: K-12 Length: 8:26 minutes (youth version)

9:17 minutes (expanded)

Source: Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Advisory Board, 2003.

*Take a virtual tour of the Springfield, MA Materials Recycling Facility and see how recyclables are sorted and prepared for delivery to manufacturers who reuse them to make new items.*

#### **Life After the Curb (Video only)**

Grade: 2-12 Length: 20 Minutes

Source: Cornell Waste Mgmt.

*Shows the separations, processes, and end products for recyclable plastics, steel, aluminum, glass, and paper.*

#### **The Lorax (Video only)**

Grade: 4-12 Length: 30 minutes

Source: Dr. Seuss, 1971

*Book included. Emphasizes the importance of conserving and protecting the environment through fun and fictional characters.*

#### **Kids Talkin' Trash (Video only)**

Grade: K-8 Length: 14 minutes

Source: Alameda County Waste Management Authority

*Provokes thoughtful discussions and inspires children to recycle and make less garbage by practicing the 4 R's- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot.*

#### **Recycle it Right (Video only)**

Grade: 4-6 Length: 12 minutes

Source: City of Keene, NH

*Discusses the meaning of recycling, educates viewers on how to properly prepare recyclables, and examines the concept of environmental shopping.*

#### **Taking Back our Trash II: Putting Waste to Work (Video only)**

Grade: 6-12 Length: 28 minutes

Source: Alameda County Waste Management Authority

*Illustrates the changes seen in today's waste management and recycling while giving information about the past.*

#### **YES I Can! (Video only)**

Grade: K-3 Length: 15 minutes

Source: Steel Recycling Institute, 1994

*Displays the life cycle of recyclables by following animated characters as they try to get recycled.*

#### **Tina's Journal (Video only)**

Grade: 5-9 Length: 17 minutes

Source: San Francisco Recycling, 1994

*Introduces the new three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) through the eyes of a teenager.*



## Videos & DVDs (Continued)

### **Garbage (Video only)**

Grade: 1-6 Length: 26 minutes

Source: Bill Nye the Science Guy

*Disney explores garbage through a popular television series that children can relate to.*

### **Pollution Solutions (Video only)**

Source: Bill Nye the Science Guy

*Disney explores some of the solutions to today's pollution problems with this popular children's series.*

### **Recycle Rex (Video only)**

Grade: K-6 Length: 10 minutes

Source: Disney Ed. Productions

*An award winning Disney production that explains recycling in a way that children can understand.*

### **The Energy Savers (Video only)**

Grade: 1-6 Length: 9 minutes

Source: Disney Ed. Productions

*Another Disney production that explains how to conserve energy at home and at school.*

### **Tinka's Planet (Video only)**

Grade: K-3 Length: 12 minutes

Source: Ben Swets, Donna Warden

*Follows the journey of a young girl as she tries to inspire her neighbors to recycle.*

### **Affluenza (Video only)**

Grade: 4-12 Length: 60 minutes

Source: 1997

*Affluenza explores the high social and environmental costs of materialism and overconsumption. Affluenza is hosted by National Public Radio's engaging Scott Simon. A web site for teachers helps support the video. Please visit the web site for other support information.*

[www.pbs.org/kcts/affluenza/treat/guide/tguide.htm](http://www.pbs.org/kcts/affluenza/treat/guide/tguide.htm)

## Videos & DVDs (Continued)

### **Composting**

#### **Composting (Video only)**

Compost... Because a Rind is a Terrible Thing to Waste

Grade: 9-12 Length: 37 minutes

Source: Cornell Waste Mgmt.

*Shows source separation and composting operations at different businesses and institutions, as well as describing the benefits of a food scrap-composting program to decision-makers in businesses and institutions.*

#### **Home Composting: Turning Your Spoils to Soil (Video & DVD)**

Grade: 4-12 Length: 17 minutes

Source: State of Connecticut DEP

*Teaches home composting of household and yard waste. Suitable for teaching about gardening, recycling, source reduction, as well as composting.*

#### **Backyard Composting and Household Hazardous Waste (Video only)**

Grade: 1-12 Length: 15 minutes

Source: City of Keene, NH, 2001

*Teaches students the value of backyard composting while giving them important information on the dangers of household hazardous wastes.*

#### **Wormania! (Video only)**

Grade: 4-6 Length: 26 minutes

Source: Mary Applehoff, 1995

*Explains how worms can help the environment and includes a step by step "how to" for a food-waste worm compost bin.*

## **Other Resources**

### **Climate Change**

#### **Climate Change Backpack®**

Grade: 5-12

Source: New England Science Center Collaborative, 2003

*A backpack for formal or informal educators containing hands-on materials and a comprehensive Presenter's Guide for conveying the science of climate change, its effects and what we can do to help slow it down. For use indoors or outdoors, contains model ice cores, carbon cycle poster and other props to help convey the concepts. Presenter's guide and workshop schedules available online at [www.nescc.info](http://www.nescc.info).*



## Other Resources (Continued)

### Solid Waste-Recycling/Composting

#### **The Recycle Game®**

Grade: K-Adult

Source: William H. Mitchell, 1990

*A board game for 2 to 8 players that teaches the importance of recycling, composting and waste reduction. Players learn about ways to manage waste that help protect our soil, air and water, conserve natural resources, save energy and reduce costs. Included with the game is a comprehensive Learning Guide that explains recycling, composting and waste management in easy-to-understand terms.*

#### **Recycling Poster**

Grade: K-12

Source: Massachusetts DEP

*Poster that visually reminds students of how to reduce, reuse, and recycle.*

#### **Composting is Easy Poster**

Grade: K-12

Source: Massachusetts DEP

*Depicts key steps for easy composting on one side and the "Food web of the compost pile" on the other side.*

#### **A Manual for Implementing School Recycling Programs**

Grade: all Length: 44 pages

Source: MassRecycles, 1998

*The primary goal of this document is to outline the key elements in establishing waste diversion programs in schools. Since schools and their recycling programs come in all shapes and sizes, this manual will help you find the recycling system that is right for you.*

#### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: A Waste Reduction Activity Kit**

Grade: 4-8 Length: 5 day lesson plan

Source: Eco-Cycle

**Contains:** Slide shows, overheads, experiments, games. All visual aids and materials included. Extension activities for all lessons.

**Features:** No solid waste/recycling background needed. Flexible curriculum for various age levels. Activities include skills in science, math, language arts, social studies, and art. Students will learn about the history of trash, practice precycling and experiment with a modern landfill, follow recyclables and recyclable products through the steps of reprocessing at the factory, examine recyclable products and more.



## Materials Request Form

School Name/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

### Material(s) Requested: (Print in order of importance)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Needed \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Borrower's Signature Affiliation

Agree to return the above material within the designated time and will be financially responsible if the borrowed material is damaged or lost.

Return request form by mail or fax to:

**The Green Team**  
1242 Main Street 4th Floor  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413) 734-3475 Fax

### Office Use Only

School ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Request Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Date Returned \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:



## Evaluation Form

Please help us assess our Library materials and service by answering the following questions. Please return the form by mail or fax to:

**The Green Team**  
1242 Main Street 4th Floor  
Springfield, MA 01103

School Name/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

### Material(s) Borrowed:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions using ratings from poor to excellent.

1. Was the loan material helpful in conveying the subject matter?

Poor          Fair          Good          Very          Good          Excellent

2. Rate the level of interest of your students in the loan material.

Poor          Fair          Good          Very          Good          Excellent

3. Was the material age appropriate?

Poor          Fair          Good          Very          Good          Excellent

4. Relevance of material to what you are studying in class.

Poor          Fair          Good          Very          Good          Excellent

5. Would you use material from The Green Team library again?          Yes          No

Comments or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_