



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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State Officials Honor Schools, Classes Across the Commonwealth with 2013-14 Environmental ‘Green Team’ Awards

Environmental Stewardship Educational Activities Deserving of Recognition

BOSTON – Students in 78 classes from 67 schools across the Commonwealth received special recognition for their outstanding environmental actions as members of the “Green Team,” a statewide environmental education program promoted by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

Students of any age can participate in the Green Team program, an initiative comprised of students who share the goals of reducing pollution and protecting the environment. Nearly 60,000 students in more than 280 classes at 234 schools joined the Green Team this school year.

“Participation in the Green Team provides students awareness of environmental issues like recycling and sustainability,” said Governor Deval Patrick. “Environmental awareness gives students a leg up to compete in an economy where responsible stewardship of the planet is increasingly important due to the effects of climate change.”

Students took part in a range of activities, including:

- expanding school recycling programs,
- starting a compost pile using organic waste from the school cafeteria, and using the compost it generates to nourish a garden to grow vegetables,
- making their school driveways “Idle-Free Zones,” and
- increasing energy efficiency in their schools and communities.

These activities incorporated class-room disciplines from the fields of science, engineering and mathematics to reading, writing and art, as well as other non-classroom, inter-related projects.

“The environmental leaders of tomorrow are forged in the classrooms of today,” said EEA Secretary Maeve Valley Bartlett. “Some of these students may continue their education in environmental issues, but all of them can take these lessons forward as consumers or as active participants in community activities.”

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Participating classes were entered into a drawing for prizes, and 78 classes received prizes for their efforts (*full listing below*). Nineteen schools won grand prizes, and will receive school-wide performances by environmental educators Jack Golden, Peter O'Malley and Earthtunes, or gift cards to local garden centers for trees or garden supplies to further “green” their schools.

“Students are not the future of the environmental movement, they are the now,” said MassDEP Commissioner David W. Cash. “I applaud their creativity and passion, and their desire to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to their schools, communities and everyday lives. We also honor their teachers, who know the value of critical thinking and what it means to be an engaged citizen. Having one of the hardest jobs in our society, every day these teachers wake up knowing that what they do has such a big impact on today and the future.”

Participating teachers also received a Green Team Kit containing classroom posters, lesson plans, recycling tips and access to a library of other resources. In addition, 43 schools received recycling equipment from the Green Team to initiate or expand school recycling programs. Thirteen schools received signs reading “Idle-Free Zone” from the Green Team that serve as a visual reminder to drivers to turn off their engines while waiting in the schoolyard.

Students at Beebe Elementary School in Malden created posters for proper waste disposal and the importance of keeping water clean, improved the school recycling program and turned an empty lot into a garden. Teacher Michelle Corbett said, “It is always beneficial for students to get involved in the world around them! Through the various activities students learn not to take our planet and its resources for granted.”

At Carlisle Public School, teacher Barbara Arnold calculated that the school’s trash output has been cut by 40 percent since January, and they now have a single-stream recycling program. To achieve this, students created a “how-to” film and promotional video, made posters, led an assembly on single-stream recycling and set up recycling bins in all the classrooms and offices with informational signs.

Even very young students were able to make an impact by participating in Green Team activities. A kindergarten class at Federal Furnace Elementary School in Plymouth started a recycling program for the entire school, and wrote a recycling promise for each classroom to sign. “They learned that their words and ideas can really make a difference,” said teacher Angela Magnarelli. Students will also learn the benefits of planting and growing their own food, as they are planning a garden that will grow vegetables to be eaten during snack time.

At the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School in Franklin, students ran a successful campaign to collect funding for a school greenhouse. The greenhouse, which will be a valuable addition to the school’s garden, will also help support a local food pantry.



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Capt. Samuel Brown School in Peabody was the second-place winner of the Keep America Beautiful Recycle Bowl. Their student team wrote and performed skits for the school to raise awareness about recycling challenges, and pledged to increase outdoor learning and create meaningful lessons in nature. “Going outdoors for lessons and quietly observing nature teaches respect for small wonders,” noted teacher Diane Bugler. In addition, a parent “Green Team” was formed to further involve families.

More than 500 students at Lt. Job Lane Elementary School in Bedford participated in Green Team activities, including replacing disposable with reusable water bottles, and raising enough money to purchase and plant blueberry bushes outside the school.

At Harwich Elementary School, students converted egg cups into pots, produced laminated recycling instruction cards to be put up around the school, and won a National Youth Gardening Grant for \$1,500 in garden supplies. They are using this grant to install raised landscape beds and expand their vegetable garden.

“Our class is benefiting from the activities we have completed, because the students are not only learning how to be good environmental citizens, they are working together to accomplish a common goal,” said teacher Paula Duhon of students at Lee Elementary School. Her class not only planted a garden, but also created skits about idling reduction to educate the entire school.

Students, faculty, staff and parents all got involved at Roger E. Wellington Elementary School in Belmont. Students obtained recycling bins for each classroom, the PTO created labels for them, and custodians ensured that the recyclable materials were collected weekly by the town. The school also participated in the Green Cup Energy Challenge, and won second place by turning off lights, unplugging electronic devices, and finding other ways reduce energy usage. “We saved over \$1,800 on our energy bill,” noted Asst. Principal Sarah Forrey-Pettit. “We feel that if we could continue to save this kind of money, we could use it toward other educationally relevant initiatives.” Teacher Gwen Irish added, “We got into the habit of always turning off the lights when we left the room.”

Students at Joseph G. Luther Elementary School in Swansea created T-shirts to spread the word about “being green.” The school has three days each year where students wear these shirts and the community has noticed; there was an article in the newspaper about what they had done. The students are also caring for plants they planted. “The plants will be a gift for a family member in the near future,” said teacher Lindsay Poirier. “The students are enjoying taking responsibility for living things. They are eager to share their gift with a loved one very soon.”



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Nearly 5,000 students pledged to reduce, reuse, recycle; walk, bike, carpool or take public transportation; and conserve energy and water to help protect the environment. Many of the students encouraged their parents to take an idling-reduction pledge and turn off car engines while parked or waiting. Other students tracked the trash generated in their home for one month, subtracting the amount of trash their family eliminated via recycling. In addition, activities included improving school recycling or composting programs, conserving energy at school, visiting recycling facilities, meeting with municipal officials, planting school gardens, seeking alternatives to Styrofoam lunch trays, building water-powered fuel cell kit cars, and creating signs, posters, videos and web pages to raise environmental awareness in their school community.

All participating classes received Certificates of Recognition, “Trash Terminator” bookmarks or grand prizes such as a show by Jack Golden, entitled “Garbage is My Bag”; a recycling and conservation show by Peter O'Malley; an environmental concert by Earthtunes; or gift cards to a nearby garden center for plants or school gardening supplies. Other Green Team prizes included Green Team wrist bands, biodegradable corn resin and recycled tire key rings, information wheels, “Compost Matters” activity books, and pencils made from recycled denim or currency.

To learn more or to participate in The Green Team program next school year, teachers may signup on-line at: www.thegreenteam.org. The following are the Green Team Prize winners:

Grand Prize Winners

School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	Green Team Prize
Lt. Job Lane Elementary School	Bedford	Jean Mickle	3-5	Garden Supplies
Roger E. Wellington Elementary School	Belmont	Sarah Forrey-Pettit; Gwen Irish	PreK-4 2	Earthtunes Concert
Carlisle Public Schools	Carlisle	Barney Arnold	PreK-8	Recycling Show
Patrick E. Bowe School	Chicopee	Harry Brandt	K-5	Recycling Show
Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School	Franklin	Nancy Sibilis	9-12	Garden Supplies
North Street Elementary School	Grafton	Frank Sutton	2-6	Garden Supplies
Harwich Elementary School	Harwich	Kelly Heffernan	K-4	Earthtunes Concert
Lillian Jacobs School	Hull	Nicole Palermo Cristaldi	K-5	Garden Supplies
Lee Elementary School	Lee	Paula Duhon	6	Garden Supplies
Sullivan Middle School	Lowell	Meaghan Keefe	5-8	Recycling Show
Beebe School	Malden	Michelle Corbett	K-8	Garden Supplies
Manchester Essex Regional School	Manchester	Eric Magers	K-12	Garden Supplies



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Fowler School	Maynard	Deb Roussell	6-7	Garden Supplies
Captain Samuel Brown School	Peabody	Diane Bugler	K-5	Garden Supplies
Federal Furnace Elementary School	Plymouth	Angela Magnarelli	K-5	Garden Supplies
Floral Street School	Shrewsbury	Missy Hollenback	1-4	Recycling Show
Joseph G. Luther Elementary School	Swansea	Lindsay Poirier	3	Recycling Show
Marguerite E. Small Elementary School	West Yarmouth	Audrey Lee	PreK-3	Recycling Show
Lincoln Elementary School	Winchester	Lisa Cormier	K-5	Earthtunes Concert
Green Team Winners				
School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	Green Team Prize
The Victor School	Acton	Stephen Zwink	8-12	Information Wheels
Roberta G. Doering School	Agawam	Kathy Goyette-Jediny	6	Information Wheels
Dallin School	Arlington	Charlotte Milan	2-5	Wristbands
Stetson School	Barre	Kevin Snyder	9-12	Information Wheels
Swift River Elementary School	Belchertown	Cindy Fournier	1-2	Wristbands
Centerville Elementary School	Beverly	Kris Melanson	4-5	Information Wheels
Hannah Elementary School	Beverly	Tanya O'Malley	5	Wristbands
Edward M. Kennedy Academy For Health Careers	Boston	Angela Cappucci	9-10	Wristbands
Bridgewater - Raynham Regional High School	Bridgewater	Jessica Lazarus	9-12	Recycled Tire Key Rings
Bridgewater Middle School	Bridgewater	Daniel Hamn	7-8	Wristbands
Our Lady of Victory	Centerville	Theresa Brosnan	1-10	Wristbands
Selser Memorial School	Chicopee	Kristin Pisano	K-5	Wristbands
Cohasset High School	Cohasset	Carolyn Connolly	12	Information Wheels
St. Mary Of The Annunciation School	Danvers	Stacy Director	PreK-8	Wristbands
Boston Latin Academy	Dorchester	Kara Stafford	11-12	Recycled Tire Key Rings
Brookside Elementary School	Dracut	Denise Porcello	2	Wristbands
North Central Charter Essential School	Fitchburg	Anna Cynar	7-12	Wristbands
Harwich Elementary School	Harwich	Anne D'Urso	1	Pencils
Harwich Elementary School	Harwich	Margaret Shaffer	2	Pencils
Dr. Paul Nettle Middle School	Haverhill	Ted Becker	8	Wristbands
Hingham High School	Hingham	Richard Swanson	9-12	Wristbands
Hopedale Memorial School	Hopedale	Jane LeClaire	5	Pencils



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Hopkinton Middle School	Hopkinton	Michael Siedlecki	6-8	Wristbands
Gateway Regional High School	Huntington	Lyn Avery	5-12	Wristbands
Barnstable Intermediate School	Hyannis	Heidi Bernhardt	6-7	Wristbands
Dr. An Wang Middle School	Lowell	Dawn Theberge	7	Wristbands
Lowell High School	Lowell	Rose Bowie	10-12	Wristbands
St. Patrick School and Education Center	Lowell	Margie O'Donnell	PreK	Wristbands
Washington Elementary School	Lowell	Cheryl Cunningham	4	Wristbands
Helen R. Donaghue School	Merrimac	Susan Simmons	4	Wristbands
Evergreen Center	Milford	Bridget Bettencourt	9-12	Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Chelsey Fortier	7-12	Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Fatima Diaz	11-12	Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Gary Placek		Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Kristine Bettencourt	10-12	Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Lynda Slocomb		Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Michelle Jodrey		Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Pam Marcotte	3-12	Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Rebecca Philips	5-12	Information Wheels
Evergreen Center	Milford	Sheryl McGrath	10-12	Information Wheels
Greater New Bedford Vocational Tech. High School	New Bedford	Christopher Pires & Larry Carlesi	9-12	Recycled Tire Key Rings
Northampton High School	Northampton	Ellen Hirschberg	9-12	Information Wheels
Norwell Middle School	Norwell	Christina Bailey	6-8	Wristbands
South Memorial Elementary School	Peabody	Jerilee Gray	K-5	Wristbands
Thomas Prince School	Princeton	Corey Burnham-Howard	K-8	Wristbands
Snug Harbor Community School	Quincy	Joyce Wells	4-5	Information Wheels
Hatherly Elementary School	Scituate	Jill Suddath	5-6	Information Wheels
Mount Everett Regional High School	Sheffield	Danielle Melino	9-12	Wristbands
Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School	Shelburne Falls	Karen Eldred	PreK	Wristbands
Sherwood Middle School	Shrewsbury	Carol Virzi	5-6	Wristbands



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Joseph Case Junior High School	Swansea	Jessica Sanchez	8	Wristbands
Dana Hall School	Wellesley	Catherine Buttner	6-8	Recycled Tire Key Rings
North Middle School	Westfield	Michael Dulaski	7	Recycled Tire Key Rings
Weston High School	Weston	Janet Kresl Moffat	9-12	Corn Resin Key Rings
Lynch Elementary School	Winchester	Fritzie Nace	K-5	Wristbands
Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School	Worcester	Judith Luber-Narod	9-12	Wristbands & Corn Resin Key Rings
Alhuda Academy	Worcester	Badiaa Begag	2	Compost Activity Books
Tatnuck Magnet School	Worcester	Mark Tozer	K, 6	Information Wheels

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