



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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State Environmental Officials Honor Schools, Classes Across the Commonwealth with 2012-13 ‘Green Team’ Awards

Environmental Stewardship Educational Activities Deserving of Recognition

BOSTON – Students in 96 classes from 84 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 91,000 students in more than 396 classes at 296 schools joined the Green Team this school year.

“Students who participate in the Green Team program learn some of the basic environmental building blocks, like recycling and sustainability,” said Governor Deval Patrick. “Developing this kind of awareness benefits each individual student, while it also helps to further the conservation efforts undertaken by the Commonwealth.”

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,”
- 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.

“I congratulate all the students who led the way during the past school year to raise environmental awareness through Green Team activities,” said EEA Secretary Rick Sullivan. “In particular, I want to underscore my appreciation for the teachers who realize that the environmental leaders of tomorrow are forged in the classrooms of today.”

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Participating classes were entered into a drawing for prizes, and 96 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.

“These Green Teams are designed to demonstrate at the micro-level how recycling, energy efficiency and curtailing waste have immediate and measureable benefits,” said MassDEP Commissioner Kenneth Kimmell. “The teachers and students can take and adapt the lessons they learn to develop creative approaches to environmental stewardship that will make a big difference in their schools and communities.”

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, 55 schools received recycling equipment from the Green Team to initiate or expand school recycling programs. Seventeen 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 Charlestown High School participated in a dozen Green Team activities, and teacher Tom Hayes said, “We learned so much! We are also trying to reach beyond the classroom and change the culture of the entire school.”

At Brookside Elementary School in Dracut, teacher Denise Porcello calculated that the students diverted over 91 bags of trash from disposal because of the students’ recycling and waste reduction activities. “The class is much more aware of the importance of recycling and reusing!” noted Ms. Porcello.

At the Gill Elementary School, students created a display about the history and process of composting and recycling at their school and manned it at the Gill Energy Fair in April. The students also help lead the district-wide composting and recycling system there.

Hingham High School sports teams and clubs take turns supervising the compost and recycling station in a “Slash the Trash” competition. Each season, the winning team wins a prize from a local sponsor. Principal Richard Swanson stated, “The Hingham High School Green Committee has greatly decreased waste by developing a comprehensive recycling and composting program in the school cafeteria.” In addition, students and staff created three new school garden beds, built with reclaimed lumber and filled with compost generated on site.

Students, teachers and parents have been busy at the William L. Foster Elementary School in Hingham implementing and measuring the results of their school’s recycling, composting,

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gardening and “idle-free” programs. “All the children at the school are involved with our efforts and are part of our Green Team,” noted teacher Charlotte Allan.

Students at Benjamin Butler Middle School in Lowell began a school composting program this year. All 300 students at Lowell’s Joseph Pyne Arts Magnet School participated in a variety of Green Team activities.

Ten teachers from the Center School in Mattapoisett involved their classes in Green Team activities, culminating in a school wide Environmental Fair. “The town came to the school to see what each grade level focused on,” noted teacher Tammy Kelley. “We created projects and writing assignments to teach others how to recycle to help protect our ocean animals.”

At the Timony Grammar School in Methuen, students built a green house with recycled plastic bottles and planted herbs and salad greens. They also researched and wrote essays on pollution from oil spills and global warming. “They have learned to research facts and base decisions on fact,” stated teacher Cynthia Nugent.

Christopher Pires and Lawrence Carlesi, long-time Green Team member teachers at Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School, noted, “The Green Team is a great way to introduce students to the Environmental Science and Technology Career pathways. As the students progress through the projects they gain understanding of how their choices affect the planet and they become actively involved in finding solutions to current environmental issues.”

Students at the Thorndyke Road School in Worcester were active Green Team participants and formed teams of Recycling Managers, Cheerleaders, Performers, Artists, Educators and Celebration Planners. “The students are enthusiastic, and reuse, reduce and recycle have become part of the culture in the school,” said teacher Stephanie Syre-Hager.

Nearly 6,000 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 solar-powered vehicles, and creating signs, posters, videos and web pages to raise environmental awareness in their school community.

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

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
Charlestown High School	Charlestown	Tom Hayes	9-12	Garden Supplies
St. Mary Of The Annunciation School	Danvers	Stacy Drector	PreK-8	Garden Supplies
Brookside Elementary School	Dracut	Denise Porcello	2	Recycling Show
Gill Elementary School	Gill	Joanne Flagg	6	Garden Supplies
Hingham High School	Hingham	Richard Swanson	9-12	Garden Supplies
William L. Foster Elementary School	Hingham	Charlotte Allan & Bridget Carroll	K-5	Earthtunes Concert
Sam Placentino Elementary School	Holliston	Karin Protas	1-2	Recycling Show
Benjamin F. Butler Middle School	Lowell	Principal Eilish Connaughton	5-8	Recycling Show
Joseph G. Pyne Arts Magnet School	Lowell	Deborah Kerr	K-5	Earthtunes Concert
Center School	Mattapoisett	Courtney Aarsheim, Jenn Boudreau, Erin Custadio, Marissa Hughes, Christylyn Julian, Tammy Kelley, Diane LeRoy, Kimberlee Nashold, Nancy Ricci, Audrey Riley	2	Recycling Show
Donald P. Timony Grammar School	Methuen	Cynthia Nugent	3-8	Garden Supplies
Clyde F. Brown Elementary School	Millis	Laura Doherty	K-4	Garden Supplies
Greater New Bedford Vocational Tech. High School	New Bedford	Christopher Pires & Lawrence Carlesi	9-12	Garden Supplies
Thomas Prince School	Princeton	Corey Burnham-Howard	K-8	Recycling Show
Broad Meadows Middle School	Quincy	Deborah Baird	7	Garden Supplies
Sherwood Middle School	Shrewsbury	Carol Virzi	5-6	Garden Supplies
Greater Lowell Technical High School	Tyngsboro	Deb Gustafson	9-12	Garden Supplies
Hosmer Elementary School	Watertown	Susan Bellis	5	Recycling Show
Thorndyke Road School	Worcester	Stephanie Syre-Hager	K-6	Earthtunes Concert



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Green Team Winners				
School Name	Community	Teacher	Grade	Green Team Prize
C. T. Douglas School	Acton	Catherine Christensen	2-6	Wristbands
The Victor School	Acton	Stephen Zwink	8-12	Wristbands
Benjamin J. Phelps Elementary School	Agawam	Jane Sauter	K	Compost Activity Books
Clifford M. Granger School	Agawam	Tammy Rumpalik	K-4	Wristbands
Roberta G. Doering School	Agawam	Kathy Jediny	6	Wristbands
Roberta G. Doering School	Agawam	Tracey Pass	5	Wristbands
Smart Start Preschool, Inc.	Agawam	Robin Jensen	PreK	Compost Activity Books
Oakmont Regional High School	Ashburnham	Alana Archangelo	9-12	Corn Resin Key Rings
Rainbow Workshop And Learning Center	Assonet	Elizabeth Lawton	PreK-K	Compost Activity Books
Swift River Elementary School	Belchertown	Cindy Fournier	1	Compost Activity Books
Roger E Wellington Elementary School	Belmont	Principal Amy Spangler, Kim Raubenheimer	K-4	Recycled Denim Pencils
Bernardston Elementary School	Bernardston	Jennifer Comiskey	4	Recycling Info Wheels
Centerville Elementary School	Beverly	Kris Melanson	4-5	Wristbands
Hannah Elementary School	Beverly	Tanya O'Malley	5	Recycling Info Wheels
North Beverly Elementary School	Beverly	Kurt Anderson	5	Wristbands
Edward M. Kennedy Academy For Health Careers	Boston	Angela Cappuci	9-12	Wristbands
Bridgewater - Raynham Regional High School	Bridgewater	Jessica Lazarus	9-12	Hazardous Waste Info Wheels
Arnone School	Brockton	Christina Limon	K-5	Composting Info Wheels
Warren Prescott School	Charlestown	Tina Champagne	5	Wristbands
Excel Academy Orient Heights	East Boston	Natalie Scheidt	5	Wristbands
Tri-County Schools	Easthampton	Danielle Crescione	K-12	Wristbands
Frank M. Silvia Elementary School	Fall River	Kimberly Katz	1	Compost Activity Books
Cape Cod Regional Technical High School	Harwich	Lynn Fleischer	11-12	Corn Resin Key Rings
Harwich Elementary School	Harwich	Margaret Shaffer	2	Recycled Denim Pencils
Dr. Paul Nettle Middle School	Haverhill	Ted Becker	8	Wristbands
Hunking Middle School	Haverhill	Cynthia McLaughlin	6-7	Recycled Denim Pencils



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Lt. Clayre Sullivan Elementary School	Holyoke	Sally Imbimbo	4-7	Wristbands
Hopedale Memorial School	Hopedale	Jane LeClaire	5	Wristbands
Hopkinton Middle School	Hopkinton	Michael Siedlecki	6-8	Wristbands
George R. Austin Intermediate School	Lakeville	Beth McNamara	4-5	Wristbands
Leicester High School	Leicester	Joanne Bernier	9-12	Wristbands
Willie Ross School For The Deaf	Longmeadow	Dawn Cooke	6-8	Wristbands
Bartlett Community Partnership School	Lowell	JoAnne Downing	PreK-8	Wristbands
Dr. An Wang Middle School	Lowell	Dawn Theberge	7-8	Composting Info Wheels
Katherine P. Stoklosa Middle School	Lowell	Elinor Sadlier	5-8	Wristbands
Pawtucketville Memorial Elementary School	Lowell	Erica VanFleet	3-4	Wristbands
St. Louis School	Lowell	Joseph Santoro	5	Wristbands
St. Patrick School and Education Center	Lowell	Marjorie O'Donnell	K-8	Wristbands
Brickett Elementary School	Lynn	Donna Whalen	5	Wristbands
Salemwood School	Malden	Lisa Serio	6	Recycling Info Wheels
Manchester Jr- Sr High School	Manchester	Eric Magers	11	Wristbands
Fowler School	Maynard	Deb Roussel	7	Wristbands
Helen R. Donaghue School	Merrimac	Noelle Keach	4	Wristbands
Helen R. Donaghue School	Merrimac	Susan Simmons	4	Wristbands
Henry B Burkland Intermediate School	Middleborough	Lisa Kaufman	5	Recycling Info Wheels
Woodside Montessori Academy	Millis	Laura Logan	K-8	Recycling Info Wheels
Norton High School	Norton	Paula Beisheim	11-12	Corn Resin Key Rings
Norwell Middle School	Norwell	Christina Bailey	6-8	Wristbands
Captain Samuel Brown School	Peabody	Diane Bugler	4-5	Wristbands
Allendale Elementary School	Pittsfield	Nancy Gagnon	1	Compost Activity Books
Pittsfield High School	Pittsfield	Dianne Renton	9-12	Wristbands
Atherton Hough Elementary School	Quincy	Teresa Quinton	5	Wristbands
Snug Harbor Community School	Quincy	Joyce Wells	4-5	Wristbands
Southern Berkshire Regional Schools	Sheffield	Danielle Melino	10-12	Composting Info Wheels
Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School	Shelburne Falls	Karen Eldred	K-6	Compost Activity Books
Pine Hill Elementary School	Sherborn	Mary Lucey	3	Composting Info Wheels



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Somerset Berkeley Regional High School	Somerset	Krystal Cardoza	9-12	Wristbands
Laurence C. Macarthur Elementary School	South Yarmouth	Audrey Lee	PreK - 3	Recycled Denim Pencils
The Grow School	Southbridge	Martha Burkett	K-7	Wristbands
Elizabeth Stevens Brown Elementary School	Swansea	Carol Maynard	5	Wristbands
Joseph Case Jr High School	Swansea	Jessica Sanchez	8	Wristbands
Mattacheese Middle School	West Yarmouth	Kristen O'Brien	6-8	Wristbands
North Middle School	Westfield	Michael Dulaski	7	Corn Resin Key Rings
Helen E. James Elementary School	Williamsburg	Johanna Korpita	2	Wristbands
Lincoln Elementary School	Winchester	Ashley Bevan	K-5	Recycled Denim Pencils
Shamrock Elementary School	Woburn	Alison McDaniel	3-5	Recycling Info Wheels
Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School	Worcester	Judith Luber-Narod	9-12	Wristbands

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