



THE GREEN TEAM Newsletter

Summer 2007

Membership in THE GREEN TEAM continued to grow and more than doubled in 2006-2007! This year, nearly 125,000 students and over 700 teachers from various grade levels at 300 Massachusetts schools signed up to participate in THE GREEN TEAM, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Through their involvement, these students and teachers were empowered to help their environment through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. Activities conducted by GREEN TEAM members made a real difference for their schools, families and communities. Thanks to all students, teachers, and school staff who participated for the first time, as well as to those who are long-time GREEN TEAM members.

Below are some of the comments and updates we received from teachers about their experiences with THE GREEN TEAM:

"This is a great program. I wish I had known about it sooner!"

Laura Vittum,
James Fitzgerald Elementary School, Waltham

"I love the program-this is my second year!"

Jennifer Rosher,
Central School, East Bridgewater

"THANK YOU! THANK YOU! for the support. This is so necessary - and change is sometimes hard to get moving in a school setting. I appreciate the support."

Nolan Kitfield,
Northfield Elementary School



Old Rochester Regional Junior High School, Mattapoisett

"I think that this is an outstanding program and that 4th grade is the perfect age to capture children's attention on this issue."

Kim Richards,
Martinson Elementary School, Marshfield

"I think these activities give the students a sense of how they can make a difference, and if everybody participates we can make a huge impact. I think it is important to instill a sense of stewardship for our earth in our students. Hopefully, they will carry this with them into adulthood."

Susan Simmons,
Helen R. Donaghue School, Merrimac

"Thanks for giving us the resources that are very age appropriate. I will have the same group of children next year, so I cannot wait to see what we can accomplish next year. Thanks for all your help."

Johanna Korpita,
Helen E. James School, Williamsburg



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"On behalf of my students and McCall Middle School, I would like to thank you for the honor of receiving the Environmental Eagle Certificate of Recognition. We are proud of our students and staff in their efforts to recycle this year. We are quite excited about the coming school year, since we have received a grant to build a recycling center and will begin recycling everything we can! I appreciate your support and look forward to continue working with you next year."

**Ellie Stroud,
McCall Middle School, Winchester**

"Thanks for your support and endless source of information. It's much appreciated!"

**Susan McBrine,
Lincoln Elementary School, Melrose**

"Students from the Francis W. Parker Charter School (Eliza Kessler, Kayla Dilley, Kayleigh Kane, Marcus Schober and Mike Bernklow) recently presented information they learned from the Green Team initiative (including idling reduction, greenhouse gas calculator, composting, ENERGYSTAR savings, etc) at a workshop on Climate Change to the local businesses in the community of Devens. This workshop helped promote awareness to the community about environmental concerns and sustainability of resources."

**Nancy Griffin, Francis W. Parker Charter
Essential School, Ayer**

"I wanted to tell you that my class wrote a wonderful poem about taking care of the Earth and were winners of the EPA poem/poster contest for their grade level. They are being honored at Faneuil Hall on June 1st. They were, also, asked to present their poem on stage at this event! They were truly inspired by their Green Team projects, which enabled them to write their poem. Thank you for a truly great program that shows children that they can and are making a difference!"

**Lisa Grasso,
Fisher School, Walpole**



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Program Highlights

Congratulations to the 113 GREEN TEAM classes who completed GREEN TEAM activities and submitted their Teacher Response forms. These 113 classes, representing over 7,840 students, took THE GREEN TEAM Pledge to recycle and prevent pollution at home, in school and in their environment. By taking the pledge, these students reached the first GREEN TEAM level, "Planet Protectors."

As their recycling efforts increased, students progressed through three GREEN TEAM levels. Eleven classes that completed a Level 2 activity, such as the "Slash Trash" lesson plan, became "Conservation Coyotes." Ninety nine classes went on to achieve the highest GREEN TEAM level, "Environmental Eagles, by completing activities at the first two levels plus at least one from the third, such as starting recycling or composting programs at their school.



Mary E. Stapleton Elementary School, Framingham

GREEN TEAM Awards

All 113 participating classes whose teachers submitted Teacher Response forms received a Certificate of Recognition for the level they achieved. In addition, "Planet Protectors" received



GREEN TEAM Awards (cont.):

Trash Terminator bookmarks or pencils made from recycled materials. Classes that reached "Conservation Coyote" or "Environmental Eagle" status were also entered into a grand prize drawing. Grand prizes were awarded to 103 classes at 75 different schools. Twenty-eight of the grand prize awards were school-wide performances by environmental "edu-tainers" Peter O'Malley, Jack Golden and the musical group "Earhtunes." The other grand prizes included mini-recycling bin planters, coloring books, wristbands and information wheels for each student. For a complete list and description of grand prizewinners and their projects, ([Click here](#)).

Abitibi Sponsors The GREEN TEAM

A big THANK YOU goes to Abitibi-Consolidated for their generous donation of \$5,000 to THE GREEN TEAM. Their sponsorship enabled us to provide 500 recycling bins to initiate or expand school recycling programs, and to augment Boston's school recycling program with 1,000 additional recycling boxes.

Abitibi-Consolidated offers a Paper Retriever program to schools and nonprofit organizations, which provides a 7-cubic yard collection box and monetary awards to the school or organization for each ton of paper collected for recycling. This program is currently available in eastern Massachusetts, with the possibility of expanding statewide in the future. To learn more, visit www.paperretriever.com.



Xavier Van Chau and Joe Rama Valianti of Abitibi Consolidated present check to Chelsea Warywoski and Ann McGovern of the Green Team

Recycling and Composting Equipment Distributed

Sixty-four schools in Massachusetts received recycling equipment from THE GREEN TEAM to initiate or enhance their school recycling programs. 1,606 classroom bins, 453 desk side boxes, 100 wheeled carts, 21 compost bins, and 17 worm bins were distributed to GREEN TEAM schools.

Schools that received recycling and/or composting equipment from THE GREEN TEAM in 06-07:

- Paul P. Gates, M.D. Elementary School, Acton
- High Plain Elementary School, Andover
- Cushing Academy, Ashburnham
- Barnstable Middle School
- Ruggles Lane School, Barre
- James McKeown Elementary School, Beverly
- Boston Day & Evening Academy
- Boston Latin Academy
- Boston Nature Center
- Boston Renaissance Charter School
- Health Careers Academy, Boston
- Blanchard Memorial School, Boxborough
- Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School
- Charlestown High School
- Chatham High School
- Cohasset Middle High School
- Conway Grammar School
- Craneville Elementary School, Dalton
- Wahconah High School, Dalton
- Holten Richmond Middle School, Danvers
- Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley
- Chandler School, Duxbury



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Schools that received recycling and/or composting equipment from THE GREEN TEAM in 06-07 (cont.):

- Duxbury High School
- Duxbury Middle School
- Curtis Guild School, East Boston
- Hemenway Elementary, Framingham
- Mary E. Stapleton Elementary School, Framingham
- Hanover Middle School
- Cape Cod Regional Technical High School, Harwich
- Kittredge Elementary School, Hinsdale
- Gateway Regional High School, Huntington
- Hyde Park YMCA, Hyde Park
- Montessori School of the Berkshires, Lenox
- Shaker Lane Elementary School, Littleton
- Longmeadow High School
- Williams Middle School, Longmeadow
- Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Longmeadow
- Lowell Catholic High School
- Moody School, Lowell
- Malden High School, Malden
- Old Rochester Regl. Junior High, Mattapoisett
- Henry P. Clough Elementary School, Mendon
- Melican Middle School, Northborough
- Northfield Elementary School, Northfield
- Pioneer Valley Regional High School, Northfield
- Norton High School
- Plymouth Community Intermediate School
- Plymouth North High School
- Plymouth South Middle School
- Henry Dearborn Middle School, Roxbury
- Jenkins Elementary School, Scituate
- Wampatuck Elementary School, Scituate
- Undermountain Elementary School, Sheffield
- Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Shelburne Falls
- Frontier Regional High School, South Deerfield
- Nathaniel H. Wixon Middle School, South Dennis
- Gerena Community School, Springfield
- Roger Putnam Vocational Technical High School,
- Hurd School, Stoneham
- Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School,
- Squannacook Elementary School, Townsend
- Warwick Community School
- Spring Street School, West Bridgewater
- Weston Middle School



Thomas W. Hamilton School, South Weymouth

Idling Reduction Takes Off

THE GREEN TEAM introduced a new initiative to help schools reduce air pollution from vehicle exhaust by offering GREEN TEAM teachers idling reduction curriculum materials and signs to use at their schools to help spread awareness.

Ten schools in Massachusetts requested and received idling reduction materials from THE GREEN TEAM to initiate an Idle-Free program at their school. 26 Idle-Free Zone signs, 13 Five Minute Idling Limit signs, 2,300 idling reduction pledge cards, 1,750 static sticker windshield decals, 1,250 bumper stickers, 100 school bus dashboard stickers and 2,400 palm cards were distributed to the following GREEN TEAM schools.

Schools that received idling reduction materials from THE GREEN TEAM in 06-07:

- Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, Ayer
- James McKeown Elementary School, Beverly
- Cohasset Middle School
- Mary E. Stapleton Elementary School, Framingham
- Remington Middle School, Franklin
- Monument Valley Regl. Mid. Sch., Great Barrington
- George R. Austin Intermediate School, Lakeville
- Montessori School of the Berkshires, Lenox
- Lincoln School, Melrose
- Helen E. James Elementary School, Williamsburg



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GREEN TEAM Earth Day Energy Conservation Initiative!

In April 2007, THE GREEN TEAM offered a special opportunity to all of its members in celebration of Earth Day. The first 50 GREEN TEAM classes who conducted the provided energy efficiency lesson received a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) for each student to bring home. Students learned how much more efficient CFLs are compared to incandescent light bulbs and how using CFLs can protect our environment by reducing greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Two thousand students received CFLs through this program.



Schools that participated in THE GREEN TEAM CFL initiative in 2006-2007:

- High Plain Elementary School, Andover
- Barnstable Horace Mann Charter School
- Barnstable Middle School
- Ruggles Lane School, Barre
- James McKeown Elementary School, Beverly
- Charlestown High School
- Dover-Sherborn Middle School, Dover
- Framingham High School
- Hemenway School, Framingham
- Mary E. Stapleton Elementary School, Framingham
- Hardwick Elementary School, Gilbertville
- Monument Valley Regl. Mid. Sch., Great Barrington
- Gateway Regional Middle School, Huntington
- Winthrop School, Ipswich
- Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Longmeadow
- Lowell High School
- Lynn Vocational Technical Institute
- Martinson Elementary School, Marshfield
- Old Rochester Regl. Junior High, Mattapoissett

- Fowler School, Maynard
- Lincoln School, Melrose
- Helen R. Donaghue School, Merrimac
- Rupert A. Nock Middle School, Newburyport
- Northfield Elementary School
- Pembroke High School
- Plymouth Community Intermediate School
- Plymouth North High School
- Plymouth South Middle School
- Colonial Park School, Stoneham
- Greater Lowell Technical High School, Tyngsboro
- James Fitzgerald Elementary School, Waltham
- Warwick Community School

THE GREEN TEAM Makes the News!

Thanks to your outstanding outreach efforts, several articles featuring GREEN TEAM members' accomplishments were published in local papers. The December 21, 2006 issue of The Boxborough Beacon highlighted **Blanchard Memorial School's** recycling program. **Warren Phillips**, a GREEN TEAM champion in the **Plymouth Public School System**, was featured in an article in the USA Today after being chosen for the 2006 USA Today All-USA Teaching Team. On January 4, 2007, The Boston Globe recognized the recycling efforts at **Kingston Intermediate School, Plymouth Community Intermediate School and Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, Bridgewater**. The ongoing recycling success of **Marshfield High School's Green Team** was featured in the April 11, 2007 Patriot Ledger.



Green Team Schools are winners in Boston's public school recycling contest



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