



The Green Team News

October 2012 News

The autumnal tints about the pond are now perfect. Nothing can exceed the brilliancy of some of the maples which stand by the shore and extend their red banners over the water. – H. Thoreau in Walden, October 8, 1852

Though the forests are changing and colder weather is moving in, The Green Team is still going strong! **Our records show that you haven't [registered](#) yet for the new school year. We encourage you to do so.**

Idling Reduction and Recycling materials are available through forms on [The Green Team website](#). We have equipment in stock, and we are responding to requests as they come in. [The Lending Library](#) also has a host of resources, both online and hardcopies, for your use in the classroom. Take advantage of these resources today!

School Programs, Resources, and Professional Development

October

Oct. 8th – Are you looking for a fun and creative way to increase school recycling participation in your community? Register your school for [Recycle-Bowl](#), the nationwide recycling competition for elementary, middle and high-school students. Participants will track and report how much recyclable material they collect for a chance to win prizes. [Register your school](#) by **Monday, October 8th**. You can contact [MassRecycle](#) to help with group and district registrations. Top players who participated with the Green Team last year include Captain Samuel Brown School in Peabody, Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public High School in Worcester and The Berkshire School in Sheffield.

Oct. 13th – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom is holding a free [Day of Garden Skills Workshops & Demonstrations for the School Garden](#) in less than two weeks at the **New England Small Farm Institute in Belchertown**. Plan to spend the day and learn skills that will help you get your school garden off to a great start. There are several half-hour workshops available covering a range of topics such as building chicken coops from pallets, low-cost cold frames, and building raised beds. Registration is free and easy.

Oct. 22nd – The [America's Cutest Energy Saver's contest](#) has started again. Parents and educators are invited to submit videos of kids doing their part to save energy. The grand prize winner will receive \$250 and the runner-up will

received \$100. The first 100 entrants will receive a one-year subscription to Consumer Reports online, a one-year Green America membership and a LED light bulb. Contest ends **October 22nd**.

November

On **Nov. 10th**, the "**Greening the School**" **Conference for Educators** will take place at the **Clay Science Center of Dexter & Southfield Schools** in **Brookline**, presented by Mass. Agriculture in the Classroom. There will be tours of the school and **Allendale Farm** and a choice of concurrent workshops during four workshop sessions. Each will focus on gardening at the school; composting and healthy soils; natural resource conservation or nutrition and local foods. The \$50 fee includes lunch, all materials and ten professional development points with accompanying classroom activity. [Read more about the conference and register.](#)

On **Nov. 15-16**, the **Massachusetts Science Teacher** and **Massachusetts Science Education Leadership Association** (MAST/MSELA) annual conference will take place in Boxborough at the Holiday Inn. The theme for this year is "*Teach to the Future*," and it will support every aspect of science teaching from specific content and lesson ideas to differentiation and other teaching strategies. There is something for every science teacher regardless of the level and content taught or teaching experience. For more information and to sign-up, visit their [website](#). The Green Team will be at MAST - On **Fri. Nov. 16, 1:30-2:30**, Ann McGovern will give a composting presentation that includes building worm bins and demonstrating outdoor compost bins. The Green Team will also have a display in the exhibit hall, please come by and say hello.

Nov. 30th – Calling all artists: The U.S. Composting Council has announced the annual poster design contest for the **International Compost Awareness Week** to be held this spring from May 6-12. This year's participants are encouraged to submit a design that reflects the theme "Compost: Nature's Way to Grow." The ICAW Poster Contest winner will have his/her winning poster design reproduced and distributed nationwide as the official 2013 ICAW poster, and featured on the USCC website. The contest is running **until November 30th**, so check out rules for entry and past winners at their [website](#) and begin your poster now!

The [Alliance for Climate Education](#) (ACE) provides climate science education to students, gives them opportunities to take action and empowers them to combat climate change in their own lives, schools and communities by reducing energy use, waste and greenhouse gas emissions. This fall, ACE will be offering "**Us vs. Waste**" – a waste-reduction action campaign with a suite of hands-on educational projects to help students understand their schools' waste stream, cut back on trash and fight climate change. **For more information about how you can have an ACE presentation at your high school, contact [Brian Stilwell](#).**

December

Dec. 14, 2012 is the deadline to submit your application for the Green Ribbon Schools Awards to the Mass. Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education. Visit [Green Ribbon Schools Recognition](#) for the application and instructions and more information. The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools award honors K-12 schools for exemplary reduction in environmental impact and costs, improvements in the health and wellness of students and staff, and delivery of effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), civic skills, and green career pathways. In 2012, for the first time, schools across Massachusetts are eligible to apply.

Recycling News

[12-year-old Sam Klein](#) has been an active supporter of recycling since he was young. His words on waste reflect an attitude we hope will become natural for all our children: "When you throw something away ... it hasn't gone away,"

[says Sam](#). "It's just gone to a different location." His enthusiasm is starting to pay off. By collecting empty printer ink cartridges destined for the landfill from local businesses, has made over \$1000, all of which he has donated to charity.

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