



# The Green Team News

## April 2013 Newsletter

Hi Green Team Teachers,

April is Earth Month! Warming weather offers a great opportunity to get outside and talk about gardens and growing things. Don't forget about waste! There's no better time to visit the compost bin and give it a stir!

Please send in your [Teacher Response Form](#) if you haven't already done so. We are extending the deadline to April 15, so please send your form in by then to receive a Certificate of Recognition and prizes for your classes in May. Even if you haven't yet completed the many activities held during warmer weather, submit your form and let us know what's in the works!

If you're interested in recycling or composting bins for your school, materials are available through forms on [The Green Team website](#). Lots of schools have already received equipment this year, but some is still available, and we are responding to requests as they come in. There is a composting lesson plan on the [website](#) and other materials to help you get started.

### Green Team School Spotlight

The **High Plain Elementary School** in Andover has made the Green Team Spotlight for their new composting program! Parent volunteers have really helped with education and implementation both in the cafeteria and in the auditorium. Students were excited about the new program at a school-wide assembly that showed a "reader's theater" skit with characters such as the Lorax, Kermit the Frog, Oscar the Grouch, Cat in the Hat, all played by several students from the middle school. There was also a demonstration of how the new sorting works and a [compilation video](#) of students and volunteers taking part in the waste audit. The school expects to divert over 75% of waste from the cafeteria by composting and recycling!

### School Programs, Resources, and Professional Development

*April*

**Thursday, April 11, 8:00 – 3:00 pm** – The **6<sup>th</sup> Annual MA Green Schools Summit: STEM & Service** will be held at Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School in Easton,

MA. The goal is to educate and empower those committed to Greening our Schools, to share best practices, and to provide projects and solutions for individuals to go back to their schools and communities and make *The Green Difference!* For more information and to [register](#), visit the [Green Schools](#) website.

**April 14-20 is National Environmental Education Week.** Visit their [website](#) to learn more about how you can join a national network of educators and organizations dedicated to increasing the environmental knowledge of K-12 students. The 2013 theme, [Greening STEM: Taking Technology Outdoors](#), explores how technology can enhance environmental learning both inside and outside the classroom.

**Monday, April 22 is Earth Day!** Visit [The Earth Day Network](#) for resources and ideas.

**Tuesday, April 23** – Manchester-Essex Middle High School will be hosting an information session entitled **Raging Oceans**, presented by Oceana, an international organization focused on ocean conservation. Join them at 6:30PM to learn about effective actions we can take locally to turn back the tide of destruction and prevent tragedies like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf. For more information call Mercy Cover at 617-888-5222 or e-mail at [mcover@oceana.org](mailto:mcover@oceana.org).

*May*

**Friday, May 3** – Deadline to submit applications for a **State Farm Service-Learning Grant**. Funds can be used to purchase a Rocket Composter, an in-vessel composter that can be sited at your school for food waste. This can help your school reduce its carbon footprint and the costs associated with waste hauling. For more information about the grant requirements and the process, visit State Farm's [Youth Advisory Board website](#).

**Monday, May 6 – Sunday, May 12 is International Compost Awareness Week!** This is an annual event designed to promote composting and the use of compost to communities across the world. The U.S. Composting Council will showcase a range of backyard composting endeavors as well as commercial composting operations. Check out their [website](#) for ideas about how to participate. You can also add your composting event to their [Facebook](#) events calendar by mailing [Leanne Spaulding](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me via email or telephone at (413) 586-7350, ext. 225.

Sean Pontani  
Green Team Program Administrator

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 225  
Fax: (413) 586-7350  
Email: [recycle@thegreenteam.org](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org)