



# The Green Team News

## January 2013 News

Happy New Year from the Green Team!

If you're interested in recycling or composting bins for your school, 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. There is a composting lesson plan on the [website](#) and other materials to help you get started.

### **School Programs, Resources, and Professional Development**

#### *January*

The Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter, Inc is gearing up for their 26<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Conference to be held on **January 12th** at Worcester State University. The keynote speaker, Karen Washington, will be leading a seminar on organizing school gardens and educational agriculture, and in partnership with Mass Ag in the Classroom the seminar has been approved for Professional Development Points. The overall workshop and registration information can be found on their [website](#).

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is offering **free trees for schools** and youth groups. Applications are due **Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** and can be found on their [website](#). Don't miss out on your chance to help wildlife by planting a tree this spring. There are a number of resources that the NWF offers to accompany a tree planting, including interactive activities, a [Flickr photo group](#) of other students planting trees and a tree care calendar detailing a newly planted tree's needs throughout the year. It's not too early to plan your planting, but act now as there are limited quantities!

The NWF's Eco-Schools USA and Schoolyard Habitats programs are also offering a free webinar entitled "Gardening for Nutrition and Wildlife" **on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** from 4-5PM EST. Learn how you can address physical education, healthy living and science all at once by having a Nutritional Garden for Kids and Wildlife. Learn about the value of pollinators to your vegetable garden and how you can link the subjects of pollinators, healthy soil and nutritious food. Space is limited to 200 participants, [so reserve your place now!](#)

On **Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>**, the national award-winning **Green Scholars program** will be hosting a workshop at Manchester Essex Regional High School titled “An Adventure Approach to School Sustainability.” This program utilizes adventure and service learning to engage students as change agents through independent projects within their school or community. The “Scholars” design takes a place-based approach, connecting students more deeply to the environment in which they live while working to protect it. Participants will review the well-developed model, practice use of tools for “teacher advisors” and plan for their own Scholars launch. The cost of the workshop is \$100. More information can be found at the [Green Scholars](#) posting on Project Adventure’s website.

February

The [Healthy and Sustainable Food Journalism Awards](#) is a high school competition designed to bring the hard facts about school food to entire school communities – in the students’ own words. Articles submitted for consideration must be about the need for healthy, sustainable school food and must have been published in a school newspaper. Best-selling author and food activist **Michael Pollan** will judge the finalists and select the winners who will receive cash prizes (\$1,500 for first place!) and \$200 for their journalism class. **Contest ends February 28. Winners will be announced on Earth Day – April 22, 2013.**

**Massachusetts Recycling News**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has recently announces the awardees of the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Municipal Grants. Several cities are receiving grants to fund school recycling initiatives, for both equipment and technical assistance. In April and May, MassDEP will present six two-hour information sessions on SMRP Municipal Grants covering details about applications for SMRP grants. For more information, visit the [MassDEP’s information page](#) on their website. For the list of 2012 awardees, see below:

Town of Abington	School Recycling Equipment	\$3,803.00
City of Boston	School Recycling Implementation Assistance	\$30,000.00
City of Chicopee	School Recycling Equipment	\$7,900.00
City of Chicopee	School Recycling Implementation Assistance	\$18,000.00
Town of Danvers	School Recycling Equipment	\$10,413.00
Town of Danvers	School Recycling Implementation Assistance	\$7,700.00
Town of Medfield	School Recycling Equipment	\$2,025.00
Town of Middleborough	School Recycling Implementation Assistance	\$12,000.00
Town of Middleborough	School Recycling Equipment	\$4,916.00
Town of Winchester	School Recycling Implementation Assistance	\$9,300.00

Town of Winchester	School Recycling Equipment	\$6,500.00
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If you have any questions, please contact me via email or telephone at (413) 586-7350, ext. 225.

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