



The Green Team News

May 2013 Newsletter

Hi Green Team Teachers,

Happy May! A hearty thanks to all teachers and students who participated in Green Team activities this year! We've read so many great stories about how recycling and composting programs have taken off and students have had direct involvement in waste reduction. We'll be shipping out prizes and Certificates of Recognition very soon and announcing our grand prizewinners. Stay tuned!

As the school year ends, consider helping students donate unwanted items for reuse or recycling. [MassRecycle](#) created a document, the [Great Locker Greenout Toolkit](#), to help teachers and schools with the leftover materials at the end of the year. Although the contest is not being held this year, the information in the toolkit is still very helpful and relevant. The donation guide at the end of the toolkit has a few broken links, but they still lead to the right organization.

Recycling and composting materials are available through forms on [The Green Team website](#). Many schools have taken advantage of them this year, and it's not too late to begin now.

Special Announcement

The Green Team website will soon have an updated layout and look! The lesson plans and posters, the school participation information and all of our online forms on the present site will be included, in addition to a new photo gallery and a Green Team Spotlight section that features your outstanding accomplishments.

Green Ribbon Schools Awarded

We would like to highlight three schools and one school district whose achievements have been recognized on a national level. Congratulations to the following schools as Green Ribbons School Honorees:

- Acton Public Schools and Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
- Berkshire School, Sheffield

- Manchester Essex Regional Middle High School, Manchester By-the-Sea
- Quincy High School, Quincy

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition award honors schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education, which incorporates STEM, civic skills and green career pathways. Read more about their accomplishments and stories on [ED-GRS website](#). All fourteen Massachusetts schools and districts that submitted applications for the Green Ribbon Schools awards deserve recognition for excellence in environmental achievements: Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Upton; Boston Latin School; Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School, Peabody; Gateway Regional Jr. High, Gateway Regional Middle School, Gateway Regional High School, Huntington; Hingham High School; Horace Mann Elementary School, Melrose; Newton North High School, and South Shore Charter Public School, Norwell.

School Programs, Resources, and Professional Development

May

Thursday, May 16 – The Massachusetts Envirothon takes place at Borderland State Park in Easton from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Envirothon is a statewide environmental education program and competition for high school students and their advisors. The current issue for 2013 is Trees, Forests and Sustainability in Massachusetts. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Thursday, May 23 - The Youth Environmental Summit will be held at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for students in grades 3-12 to gather for a day to share the findings of their science and environmental studies projects with other students through presentations and hands-on workshops. Students also have the opportunity to learn from professionals in the environmental science field through engaging, hands-on workshops. Please send any questions to cynthia.grippaldi@cetonline.org.

Thursday, May 23 – The **STEM Resource Fair for Educators** will be held at Bridgewater State University from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. PK-12 teachers, administrators and community STEM supporters will walk away with inspiring, hands-on STEM lessons to use in their classrooms the very next day. Learn about dozens of STEM resources such as summer science camps for kids, professional development, curriculum, field trips, in-classroom resources and STEM professionals willing to share their love of STEM with your students! For additional information, including a list of workshops, collaborators and directions to the event, visit their [website](#).

Friday, May 24 - The award-winning **Green Scholars Program** will hold a training from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Manchester Essex Regional Middle-High School. This program utilizes experiential education and service learning to engage students as change-agents through independent projects within their school or community. For more information, contact [Eric Magers](#) and register at their [Eventbrite training page](#).

June

Wednesday, June 12 – Application deadline for MassDEP [Sustainable Materials Recovery Program \(SMRP\) Municipal Grants](#), which offer funding to cities, towns and regional entities - as well as certain non-profit organizations that provide services to them - for recycling, composting, reuse and source reduction activities that will increase diversion of municipal solid waste and household hazardous waste from disposal. Grants are available for recycling and composting equipment; Pay-As-You-Throw programs; waste reduction enforcement; school recycling; and local/regional waste reduction projects.

June 23 – 29 – Applications from rising 9-12th grade students are being accepted for the Green Schools Alliance [Student Climate and Conservation Congress \(SC3\)](#), to be held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The mission of the Student Climate & Conservation Congress (Sc3) is to empower outstanding student environmental leaders with the skills, knowledge, and tools necessary to address natural resource conservation challenges and better serve their schools and communities. This is a great summer opportunity for your student leaders!

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

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