



# The Green Team News

## January 2014 Newsletter

### Welcome to 2014 Green Team members!

What is your New Year's Resolution? Why not engage your students with a 'green' resolution they can work on all year long! Some popular ideas include working towards adding material that your school recycles, creating an environmental club at your school, or have a daily green fact that your students discuss. Let us know how your green resolutions go and we can post them to the [website](#).

**ECO-STAR:** Jeff Stevens, recycling coordinator for the [Middleboro School District](#), which was a recipient of [MassDEP's School Recycling Assistance Grant](#) in 2013, has reported on their amazing improvements in recycling rates since last year. This November, their 5 schools recycled 83 full bags of plastic bottles and cans, compared to only 33 bags last November. This is a 250% improvement. On a similar note, they recycled 4.15 tons of paper in November, compared to 2.95 tons last November; an increase in 140%. Congratulations to Jeff and the Middleboro School District! All of your efforts are paying off, and we thank you.



[NSTAR Challenge](#) tasks students with grade-specific assignments to showcase their energy knowledge with the focus on energy conservation, energy efficiency, energy efficient technologies, and sustainability. Finalists from each grade level and their families will be honored at a special awards ceremony upon completion of the program. [Register here](#).

We invite you to **become a friend of GreenTeam MA on Facebook**. This private group is for you to share ideas or ask questions to other members and make your school's Green Team a success. [Friend request us here](#). A big thanks to everyone who has already joined the group! Make sure to set this group to **send you notifications** so you stay up to date whenever something new is posted.

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

## January

**Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline** – [Massachusetts Envirothon](#) registration for 2014 must be completed by January 31<sup>st</sup>. This program is a fun and challenging environmental program for high school students to get outdoors and explore, engage with their communities, test their environmental knowledge, gain hands-on experience for MA ecosystems, and increase their awareness of career opportunities in the environmental field. Fee is \$200 and includes participation by 10 members and 2 coaches and 2014 competitions. [Register here.](#)

**Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline** – Early Bird Rate ends for MEES Conference on Environmental Literacy for the Next Generation on 1/31/14. Receive \$15 of the \$90 entry fee for the March 5<sup>th</sup> conference. [Register here](#)

## February

**Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>** – [Green Scholars Training – A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Experiential Approach to School-Based Environmental Sustainability](#). This course is designed to equip teachers and administrators with the knowledge they need to teach students how to face 21<sup>st</sup> century environmental challenges. You will receive writing prompts, assessment rubrics, Green Schools Basic Membership and Handbook, and Professional Development Points. Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30am – 3:30pm at [Manchester Essex Regional Middle High School](#); \$199. [Register here.](#)

**Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> Deadline** – The EPA is currently welcoming applications from public school teachers for the third annual [Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](#). This award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers and their schools nationwide for excellence in integrating environmental education into their lessons and connecting students with their professional development in environmental education. Winners receive up to \$4,000. [Apply here.](#)

## March

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** – [Massachusetts Environmental Education Society \(MEES\) 2014 Conference: Environmental Literacy for the Next Generation](#). Workshops include lessons aligning with the Mass Curriculum Framework, how to “green” your school, and valuable information on how to reach learners in all settings. Located at the College of the Holy Cross from 8:15 – 4:00pm; \$90. [Register Here by January 31<sup>st</sup> and get \\$15 off!](#)

**Mar. 14, 2014 Early Submission Deadline** – [Green Living Project’s Student Film Project Contest](#). GLP is accepting short films by students telling a unique and compelling story about a sustainability-related project. Winning films will be shown at GLP events throughout the year and also receive gear and prizes up to \$1,000 in value. Contest is open to 6<sup>th</sup> graders through graduate level students. [Submit a video here.](#)

Have a great week!

**Sean Pontani & Stephanie Frank**

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