



The Green Team News

December 2013 Newsletter

Happy Holidays from the Green Team!

Encourage your students to think about the impact of their actions this holiday season! They could investigate options such as [Conservatree's consumer guide](#) to cards that incorporate postconsumer recycled paper and support other environmentally-friendly practices, such as cards embedded wildflower seeds or cards made from junk mail. Students can create their own wrapping paper and holiday decor, visit [Earth 911](#) for ideas.

Now is the time 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](#) or [sign up for Facebook here!](#) Big thanks to everyone who has already joined the group!

[Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources SAPHIRE Program](#) is seeking proposals from Massachusetts **K-12 schools interested in significant energy savings** while reducing environmental impact. If your school is interested in a [feasibility study](#) or [implementation assistance](#) email a completed application to [Elise Anderson](#).

[The Boston Schoolyard Initiative](#) has been transforming Boston's schoolyards into dynamic centers for recreation, learning and community life since 1995. [Learn all about BSI here.](#)

["e" inc.](#) is an environment science learning and action center regarding environmental change in urban communities. [Kids Green Their Schools](#) is an experiential program through "e" inc. for K-8 schools looking to boost their existing science involvement while also going green. This fall, Kids Green Their Schools has focused on energy conservation, and anticipate site savings from 1,000-2,000 kWh per month.

[Green Ribbon Schools'](#) Conference this past September was a great success! [Take a look at these pictures taken from the conference.](#)

There are lots of helpful topics covered in the US Department of Education's ongoing [Green Strides Webinar series.](#)

[Urban School Food Alliance: Aim for an Environmental Revolution.](#) The move from foam trays to sugarcane based compostable lunch trays in urban school districts. "I want our money and resources for food going into children, not in garbage going to the landfill..."

[Composting: Teachers Love it – and it's Saving Schools Money!](#) Composting is popping up in schools all around the country and Massachusetts is noted as one state on the forefront!

Do you have an outstanding green team at your school? You could be a [Green Team Eco-Star!](#) Email your story and photos to recycle@thegreenteam.org for a possible posting on our website and mention in the next newsletter!

School Programs, Resources, Competitions and Professional Development

December

Dec. 6th Deadline – [Massachusetts Green Ribbon Schools Applications](#) due. [US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools \(ED-GRS\)](#) recognizes schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening their school involving environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts. To submit your application, send it to [Lauren Greene](#).

Dec. 10th – U.S. [Composting Council Research & Education Foundation Sustainable Student Scholarship Award.](#) High School seniors with an interest in composting should apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. Send in two letters of recommendation, and an essay about your composting experience to leannepaulding@compostingcouncil.org by

the January 20th, 2014 deadline.

Dec. 31st Deadline – [Project Orange Thumb](#) is accepting applications from schools and nonprofits for their community garden grant program. Your school could be the winner of up to \$5,000 in cash and gardening tools to help you reach your goals of community change. You could even be the winner of a complete garden makeover with the help of the Project Orange Thumb team!

Through December, 2013 - Calling Teachers, Students, Parents, Administrators!

To celebrate the launch of Flora II, the South Shore Natural Science Center's (SSNSC) new Mobile Science Classroom, they are providing FREE programs to 100 schools in 100 days through December 2013! If you would like Flora II to visit your school for free STEM, environmental education and natural science programming please visit <http://southshorenaturalsciencecenter.org/100schools/> for instructions on submitting an essay application.



January

Jan. 17th 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 6th graders through graduate level students. [Submit a video here.](#)

Have a great Holiday Season!

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