



The Green Team News

February 2014 Newsletter

February is Here!

Spring is going to come before we know it and that means it is time for [Teacher Response Forms!](#) These are due by March 31st to be eligible for end of the year prizes. All of us at The Green Team would like to say thank you for all the hard work you put into teaching your students about waste diversion and energy efficiency, and we want to hear all about your experiences and reward your students for their accomplishments!

Renewable Energy Assistance for Massachusetts Schools

[Schools and Public Housing Integrating Renewables and Efficiency \(SAPHIRE\)](#), a program of the Massachusetts Dept. of Energy Resources, [DOER](#), helps K-12 Massachusetts schools combine energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to achieve significant energy savings while reducing environmental impacts. DOER is currently seeking proposals for feasibility studies for projects in schools that are primarily heated with oil, propane, or electricity, and Phase 2 proposals to help schools that have a completed feasibility study to find grants and loans to finance project implementation at the school. [Click here to learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

[6 Ways to Recycle School Supplies](#)

Earth911.com offers some timely suggestions for recycling school supplies like binders, pens, pencils, highlighters, markers and more!

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

February

Feb. 3 - [The Green Education Foundation's 2014 National Green Week](#) kicks off February 3-7, but you can choose any week until April 25th to host your schools' Green Week! By choosing a week for your school and [signing up here](#), you will be given free lesson plans, activities, and tips to share with your students and other classrooms. You can choose between 6 different themes for your green week including waste reduction, and green energy.

Feb. 7th - [Green Scholars Training – A 21st 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 21st century environmental challenges. You will receive writing prompts, assessment rubrics, Green Schools Basic Membership and Handbook, and Professional Development Points. Friday, February 7th 8:30am – 3:30pm at [Manchester Essex Regional Middle High School](#); \$199. [Register here.](#)

Feb 15, 16 and 17 - [Owl Festival, South Shore Natural Science Center](#) – At this presentation from Eyes on Owls. Marcia Wilson will introduce you to her menagerie of owls. Get an up close view of these amazing denizens of the New England fields and forests. Also, check out the many activities offered for [February Vacation Week.](#)

Feb. 19th – The [National Wildlife Federation](#) is hosting a webinar to help teachers prepare for [National Wildlife Week](#) (March 17th-23rd). The theme is WILDLIFE AND WATER, from the mountains to the rivers and oceans. Learn from experts about the featured wildlife. You will also receive a toolkit including lessons, activities, and a poster. [Sign up for the webinar here](#), 5:00-6:30pm; Free.

Feb. 21st Deadline – [Trees for Wildlife: Plant Trees, Protect Wildlife and Improve Your Community](#), an educational program of the [National Wildlife Federation](#), through which schools and youth groups may apply to receive free native trees, planting and resource guides, and guidance from NWF staff to assist in planning a tree-planting event or community tree giveaway. Fun, hands-on science-based activities to help students learn about the importance of trees and how to plant and care of trees for the future. Help your students become environmental stewards and [apply here](#).

Feb. 28th 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 3rd Deadline – [Keep America Beautiful](#) and the [Coca-Cola Foundation](#) are now accepting applications for the [2014 Coca-Cola/KAB Recycling Bin Grant Program](#). This grant program is designed to expand and support recycling of bottles and cans. Successful applicants will be notified by Keep America Beautiful in April 2014 and grant recipients will have the bins shipped to their locations in early summer. [Apply here](#).

March 5th – [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, Worcester, from 8:15 – 4:00pm; \$90. [Register Here](#)

March 8th – [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom](#) will hold their 13th Annual [Winter Growing Minds through Massachusetts Agriculture Conference](#). There will be four workshop sessions, with eight concurrent workshops in each session related to agriculture in the classroom, including worm composting and anaerobic digestion! Each will be taught by a teacher or farm educator. \$50; [Paul R. Baird Middle School](#) in Ludlow, MA. [Click here](#) for the conference schedule and registration form.

March 28th Deadline – [The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs](#) is now accepting nominations for the [2014 Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Awards](#). Awards will be presented this spring to Massachusetts teachers and students involved in school-based programs that promote environmental and energy education. All public and private MA schools (K-12) are eligible, nominations due by March 28th. [Nominate a teacher or student here](#).

Keep up the Green Work!

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