



The Green Team News

May 2014 Newsletter

Hi Green Team Teachers,

A big thank you to all the teachers, students and parents who participated in Green Team activities this year! We have read great stories about how recycling, composting and idle reduction efforts have become key components in your education this year. It is wonderful to see so many students taking direct action to reduce waste and become environmental stewards. We will be shipping out prizes and Certificates of Recognition very soon and announcing our grand prize winners. Stay tuned!

As the school year winds down, it might be time to help students donate unwanted items for reuse or recycling. [MassRecycle](#) created a [Great Locker Greenout Toolkit](#) to help teachers and schools with the leftover materials at the end of the year. This is no longer a competition, but it is a great resource to help schools continue to reduce waste!

Website Updates -

The [Photo Gallery](#) is now up to date with all of the pictures we have received so far, take a look at what other schools are doing!

We have created a new [Food Waste Reduction](#) webpage on the Green Team website located under Recycling Facts. This page has information on reducing food waste at schools, the upcoming Massachusetts Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban, compost information, and many resources to check out. There are also case studies on reusable versus disposable products in cafeterias.

There are a lot of great resources, opportunities, contests and events coming up over the next few months. See below for dates and descriptions!

Green Ribbon Schools Awarded

We would like to highlight the 2014 Massachusetts Green Ribbon School awardee, Boston Latin School, whose achievements have been recognized on a national level. Congratulations, Boston Latin School!

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 six 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; Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School, Peabody; Hingham High School; Leominster High School and Plymouth North High School. The rules of the national program only allowed one school from Massachusetts to be selected this year.

School Programs, Resources, Competitions and Professional Development

May

May 5th – 11th – International Compost Awareness Week! This is a multi-media publicity and education event that showcases composting and compost products. It features everything from composting in your backyard to large-scale commercial composting facilities and businesses serving entire communities. Sponsored by the [U.S. Composting Council](#) Visit <http://compostingcouncil.org/icaw/> for more information and ways to get involved.

May 10th – Youth from all over Massachusetts will gather for the [Alliance for Climate Education's](#) 8th Annual [YouthCAN Climate Summit](#) at MIT for a day of high impact climate solutions workshops, powerful speakers, green hip hop, local food, and sustainable prizes and raffles! This free event is open to students, teachers, and parents who are already environmental leaders, or those interested in learning more information and becoming environmental leaders. Saturday 9:30 – 3:00 at MIT Stata Center. [Register here.](#)

May 15th – [Mass Envirothon!](#) Sholan Farms, Leominster. Mass Envirothon is a statewide environmental education program for high school age young people and their advisors. [Learn more here.](#)

May 22nd – The [Youth Environmental Summit 2014](#) is a free annual event where hundreds of students from Berkshire County come together to present their research projects and findings to peers. Come learn and exchange ideas with a diverse group of environmental professions at Berkshire Community College from 8:45am – 1:30pm.

May 30th Deadline – [Green Living Project's Student Film Project](#) is encouraging students grade 6 and up to submit a unique and compelling short film about local or global sustainability-related projects. Winning films will be screened at [GLP](#) events this year, and winners will receive prize packages valued at \$500. Check out the [rules and guidelines here](#), and [submit your video here](#).

June

June 12th – [MassDEP](#) and [RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts](#) present the [Massachusetts Commercial Food Waste Vendor Fair](#): Everything you need to divert food waste from your waste stream. Although most schools won't be subject to this ban, we encourage all food waste generators to attend this free vendor fair to connect with haulers and processors of food waste. You will also have the chance to connect with compostable product vendors

your school may be interested in purchasing from for cafeteria use. [Click here](#) for more information on the vendor fair, and [register here](#). Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, 9am-2pm, Free to attendees.

Enjoy the great weather!

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The logo for Vertical Response, featuring the word "vertical" in a purple sans-serif font, "response" in a black sans-serif font, and "DELIVERED BY" in a small black font above "response". Below "response" is the tagline "Try It Free Today!" in an orange sans-serif font.

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