



The Green Team News

November 2014 Newsletter

GREEN TEAM resources and opportunities to brighten up your November!

Happy November Green Team Teacher! Can you believe we are already talking about Thanksgiving plans? Don't forget to incorporate Green Team lesson plans now that you are in your "stride".

We've noticed that you haven't registered for The Green Team yet this year. Please do so soon!

We're preparing to send out this year's Green Team Kit, including a classroom poster and lesson plans! [Register Here](#). Registered classes are eligible to receive certificates of recognition and prizes in April.

Don't forget, once registered, you can apply for [recycling and composting equipment](#) for your class and [idling reduction materials](#)! Once these forms are filled out scan and email them to recycle@thegreenteam.org or fax them to (413) 586-7351.

Featured Topics:

Expect your Green Team kit this month! The Green Team has been working hard to update and revise The Green Team kit materials. We are nearing completion and the kits will be sent out soon. We sincerely thank you for your patience!

Working with Your School's Food Service Director to Reduce Waste and Recycle More: Over the last few years the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has received numerous requests from school districts regarding environmental friendly cafeteria trays. Schools have sought information and support about switching from foam trays to more environmentally preferable food service ware, either compostable items or washable items (where dish washing machines are used). In an effort to learn more about what schools are currently using, the costs and impacts of these choices, and to assess interest in transitioning to products and processes that lighten our impact on the environment, MassDEP created a brief survey for School Food Service Directors. This survey takes a close look at current practices in Massachusetts schools, focusing on food service ware used in school cafeterias. Food Service Directors are in a key position to make choices that impact added waste from food service ware. Please ask your School's Food Service Director to take a few minutes and complete this survey. MassDEP will

provide results to those who complete the survey. Thank you for taking the time to inform this important discussion.

Follow this link to the survey: <https://barnstablecounty.wufoo.com/forms/food-service-ware-used-in-school-cafeterias/>

School Organics Diversion Case Study: The MassDEP awarded the municipality of Framingham a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant to establish a School Organics Diversion and Reusable Tray Program at 4 elementary schools. **Check out the [case study](#) to learn how they reduced waste and cut costs. Way to go, Framingham!**

Stay tuned! Related materials will be posted soon on The Green Team website.

An exciting resource for understanding climate change in New England: [The New England Aquarium's](#) website has an accessible explanation of how climate change is impacting Massachusetts and other New England states.

School Programs, Resources, Competitions and Professional Development

November

Nov. 13 and 14 - [Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\)/Massachusetts Science Education Leadership Association \(MSELA\) Conference.](#) The theme of this year's Conference is ***Supporting Science Educators Facing Change / Supporting Science Leaders Facing Change.*** [Click here to register.](#) The Green Team will have an exhibit and offer a composting workshop by The Green Team's own, Ann McGovern, **"Worm Composting Indoors and Bin Composting Outdoors."** Learn how to set up a classroom worm bin or outdoor compost bin. Bring a 14-gallon or larger plastic tote to make your own worm bin; worms provided! Easy outdoor compost bins available through DEP's Green Team program will be demonstrated. This is a great tie-in with school gardening projects.

Nov. 15 – Deadline for entries into the [International Compost Awareness Week](#) poster contest hosted by the US Composting Council. International Compost Awareness Week is May 3-9, 2015. [Click here](#) to learn more about this year's theme, *Be Loyal to Your Soil: Compost!* and how to enter your students' posters.

Nov. 15 - [America Recycles Day:](#) A program of Keep America Beautiful. Thousands of event organizers around the country are organizing local recycling drives. America Recycles Day has free resources for [hosting and registering](#) a recycling event, an educational [Go-to Guide](#), assistance with [finding](#) a recycler in your area and many more exciting resources. Let us know if you host an event and send us pictures so we can post them to [The Green Team Photo Gallery](#).

Dec. 11 – Application deadline for [Green Ribbon School Award](#). 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.

We're so thankful to all the teachers and Green Team supporters for helping to promote environmental education to students across the state. Have a great Thanksgiving!

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