



The Green Team News

February 2015 Newsletter

Winter has settled in but that doesn't stop you—our GREEN TEAM champions—from educating Massachusetts youth about waste diversion and energy efficiency. All of us at THE GREEN TEAM are inspired and thankful for your hard work.

The new Green Team kits were recently sent to registered members. Please let us know if you have not received your kit yet.

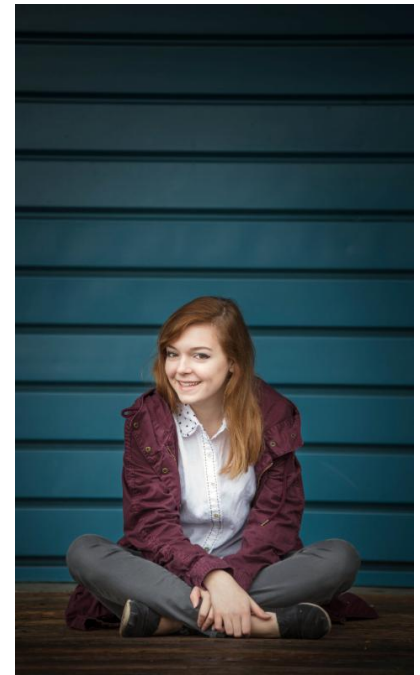
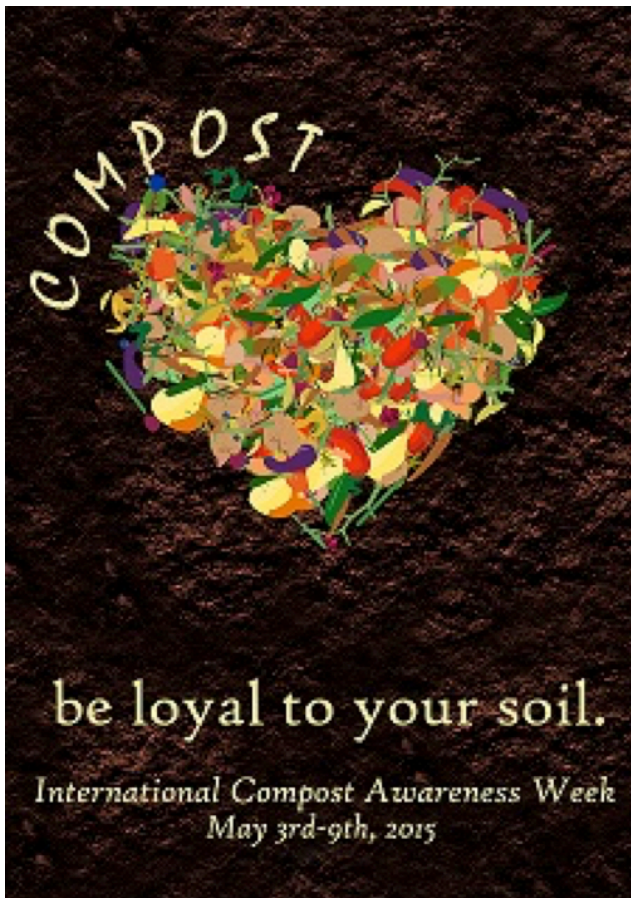
Check out the 2014-2015 Green Team [Participating Schools list](#) to see which schools and teachers are participating in the Green Team this year. There may be new networking opportunities for “Greening” schools with colleagues in your area.

It's already time to start thinking about the year-end certificates and prizes for participating schools. Make sure to send in your [Teacher Response Form](#) by March 31st! We want to hear more about your experiences and how your students succeeded in the classroom.

The [Massachusetts Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#) on Jan. 13th was a big success! Over 60 people attended the “Closing the Loop: Waste Reduction, Composting Organics and School Gardens” session led by MassDEP, Holly Hill Organic Farm, Hingham High School students, and Quabbin Regional High School students (pictured below). Attendees learned about state and GREEN TEAM resources available and heard inspiring examples from school composting and gardening practitioners.



Congratulations to the [2015 US Composting Council Poster Design Contest Winner](#), Emily Mozzone of Tahoma High School in Maple Valley, Washington.



[School Programs, Resources, Competitions and Professional Development](#)

The [Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers \(MAST\)](#)—a state chapter of the National Science Teachers Association—is a professional organization

dedicated to improving science education at all levels. MAST members receive access to exclusive resources, content, and newsletters from MAST and the national organization. Their newsletter links you to exciting events like Science on Saturday at MIT and the 2015 Water Watch Lecture Series.

February

Feb. 6, 2015 – Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) 2015 Conference Early Bird [Registration](#)

Feb. 15, 2015 -- Sustainable Student Scholarship Award

The Composting Council Research and Education Foundation's (CCREF) Sustainable Student Scholarship Award aims to foster an interest in composting research and utilization among the next generation of industry experts and researchers. This scholarship is a good way to bring attention to the emerging young professionals within this growing field and to generate interest in the future of the compost industry. Encourage students to [apply](#) today!

Feb. 19, 2015 (Blizzard-day Feb 20) – [School Gardens Conference](#), 9am-4pm at The Gardens at Elm Bank, Elm Bank Reservation, Wellesley, MA. You can learn how to champion a successful garden program in your school district from speakers, workshops on a variety of topics including volunteer involvement, curriculum and garden planning, and from a panel of presenters of school volunteers, staff and organizational supporters.

March

March 7, 2015 – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom's [14th Annual Winter Conference](#), 9am-3:30pm at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer, MA. Titled "**Growing Minds Through Massachusetts Agriculture**," the conference offers educational and networking resources, activity ideas and framework connections that can facilitate and enhance pre-K through 12th grade classroom teachers alike and help bring agriculture to the classroom.

March 11, 2015 – [MEES Conference 2015](#) “Common Wealth: Environmental Education is for Everyone”, 8am-4pm at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. This year's conference will explore Environmental Education principles for all ages, spaces and places. Join fellow environmental educators and advocates in exploring ways to reach the very young, get those in urban environments outdoors, and deepening our experiences outdoors.

March 13, 2015 - DEADLINE - The EPA is currently welcoming applications from public school teachers for the fourth 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 \$2,500. [Apply here.](#)

March 27, 2015 - DEADLINE -- [The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs](#) is now accepting nominations for the 2015 [Excellence in Energy and](#)

Environmental Education Awards. Awards will be presented at the State House 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. [Nominate a teacher or student here.](#)

March 30, 2015 – MassRecycles R3 Conference, Quincy Marriott. There will be a K-12 School Recycling and Composting track at the conference again this year. The Green Team will be there and we hope to see you there!

THE GREEN TEAM Resource of the Month

Slash Trash Lesson - Reducing, Reusing and Recycling Our Way to Zero Waste

THE GREEN TEAM's Slash Trash Lesson aims to raise awareness about problems associated with waste disposal and help students discover how to reduce, reuse and recycle instead. Students track their waste reduction at home for a month, and then calculate their diversion individually and collectively as a class. The activity shows students how their actions make a difference, individually and together.

Please send in your stories and pictures of how your class worked with this activity or other projects at your school. We are looking to highlight your students' accomplishments and the great work you are all doing on the [GT Spotlight webpage](#) and [Photo Gallery](#).

Stay warm, and stay GREEN!

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