Introduction

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection provides a GREEN TEAM library of videos, books, curriculum, recycling activity kits, and general solid waste resources for loan to Massachusetts educators. Our goal is to support and promote school recycling education and programs by making these materials available to teachers. A brief description is provided for each item.

How do I use the library?

1. Fill out the Material Request Form for the items you wish to borrow.

2. Submit the form by mail or fax to:
   THE GREEN TEAM
   112 Elm Street
   Pittsfield, MA 01201
   413-448-6054 (fax)

3. You will be contacted to confirm your requested loan.

Standard loan policies are listed below:

• Any book, video, or curricula can be borrowed for a period of 2 weeks. These materials will be delivered and returned by the U.S. Mail.
• Any educator who wishes to take out a “Recycling Activity Kit” can borrow it for a maximum of 5 weeks. Upon the signing out of a kit the educational institution must provide THE GREEN TEAM library with a $25 deposit check which will be returned to the borrower upon return of the fully intact kit. The activity kit will be made available through DEP regional offices. The borrower will be notified about making arrangements for pick up of the kit. To return the kit, follow the return instructions included. Once the kit has been received and checked in, the deposit check will be returned to the borrower.
• Materials are limited and will be loaned on a first come, first served basis. You may reserve an item for loan at a future time, pending availability.

Contact:

Sean Pontani at recycle@thegreenteam.org or 413-445-4556 ext. 25 with questions or requests.
**Books**

**Solid Waste-Recycling**

*Where does the Garbage Go?*
Grade: K-3  Length: 32 pages  
Source: Paul Showers, 1991

This book explains the life cycle of garbage past and present and some of today’s recycling processes.

*Trash*
Grade: K-4  Length: 40 pages  
Source: Charlotte Wilcox, 1988

Provides mind-boggling statistics as the author takes you through the exciting world of trash!

*The Great Trash Bag*
Grade: K-3  Length: 39 pages  
Source: Loreen Leedy, 1991

In this youth orientated book a group of animals try to save their town of Beas ton from trash.

*The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks*
Grade: K-3  Length: 39 pages  
Source: Joanna Co le, 1986

A fun look at where water comes from, how it gets to us, and keeping it clean.

*Recycle! A Handbook for Kids*
Grade: K-4  Length: 30 pages  
Source: Gail Gibbons, 1992

That the items we use are made of, which do we recycle and where do they go after the recycling truck picks them up. A behind the scenes look at recycling.

*The Adventure of a Garbage Gremlin*
Grade: 4-7  Length: 15 pages  
Source: EPA

A fun comic strip, with an activity sheet at the end, that teaches students how to reduce waste and recycle to combat a life of grime.

*The Scrap Map*
Grade: K-6  Length: 16 pages  
Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

Focuses on the importance of recycling and conserving resources in the classroom and at home.

**Composting**

*Compost! Growing Gardens from your Garbage*
Grade: K-3  Length: 32 pages  
Source: Linda Glaser, 1996

Discusses the reasons for composting in a fun and simple narrative.

**Books (Continued)**

*Worms Eat My Garbage*
Grade: K-12  Length: 82 pages  
Source: Mary Applehoff

Provides a comprehensive description of how to set up a vermicomposting system.

*Wonderful Worms*
Grade: K-2  Length: 30 pages  
Source: Linda Glaser, 1992

Simple and fun description of worms and how they work.

**Curricula**

**Solid Waste-Recycling**

*Let’s Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness*
Grade: all  Length: 141 pages  
Source: EPA

The lesson plans in this curriculum guide are based upon those that emerged as part of a public education campaign to promote recycling awareness in Somerville, MA. This program was a great success and is now used as a guide for other schools to follow.

*Solid Waste Management Resource Guide*
Grade: all  Length: 267 pages  
Source: Massachusetts DEP

This curriculum covers many different areas of solid waste management and environmental awareness for school systems.

*Bottle Biology*
Grade: 1-8  Length: 119 pages  
Source: Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, 1993

Explores science and the environment using soda bottles and other recyclable materials.

*Chameleon Condos: Critters and Critical Thinking*
Grade: 1-8  Length: 56 pages  
Source: Craig Berg, 1999

Provides instructions to build and use small critter habitats made from recycled 2-liter bottles!

*Ecology Crafts for Kids*
Grade: K-6  Length: 144 pages  
Source: Bobbe Needham, 1998

Earth friendly crafts to do with children using recycled materials.
Curricula (Continued)

Composting

School Composting Resource Package
Grade: K-12 Length: 40 pages
Source: Massachusetts DEP
Lesson plans, background information and resources on composting with students.

Composting Scrapsto Soil: A How-To Guide for School Composting
Grade: 3-6 Length: 19 pages
Source: Association of VT Recyclers
Introduces how to develop, implement, and monitor a school compost project.

Compost! Because a Rind is a Terrible Thing to Waste
Grade: 9-12 Length: 65 Pages
Source: Cornell Cooperative Ext.
Provides detailed guidance for larger institutions (schools) and businesses (grocery stores) to implement a food scrap-composting program.

Composting in the Classroom: Scientific Inquiry for High School Students
Grade: 9-12 Length: 22 pages
Source: Cornell Waste Mgmt., 1998

Videos & DVDs (Continued)

Your Recycling Efforts Won't Go To Waste-Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (Video & DVD)
Grade: K-12 Length: 8:26 minutes (youth version)
9:17 minutes (expanded)
Take a virtual tour of the Springfield, MA Materials Recycling Facility and see how recyclables are sorted and prepared for delivery to manufacturers who reuse them to make new items.

Life After the Curb (Video only)
Grade: 2-12 Length: 20 Minutes
Source: Cornell Waste Mgmt.
Shows the separations, processes, and end products for recyclable plastics, steel, aluminum, glass, and paper.

The Lorax (Video only)
Grade: 4-12 Length: 30 minutes
Source: Dr. Seuss, 1971
Book included. Emphasizes the importance of conserving and protecting the environment through fun and fictional characters.

Kids Talkin’ Trash (Video only)
Grade: K-8 Length: 14 minutes
Source: Alameda County Waste Management Authority
Provokes thoughtful discussion and inspires children to recycle and make less garbage by practicing the 4 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot.

Recycle it Right (Video only)
Grade: 4-6 Length: 12 minutes
Source: City of Keene, NH
Discusses the meaning of recycling, educates viewers on how to properly prepare recyclables, and examines the concept of environmental shopping.

Taking Back our Trash II: Putting Waste to Work (Video only)
Grade: 6-12 Length: 28 minutes
Source: Alameda County Waste Management Authority
Illustrates the changes seen in today’s waste management and recycling while giving information about the past.

YES I Can! (Video only)
Grade: K-3 Length: 15 minutes
Source: Steel Recycling Institute, 1994
Displays the life cycle of recyclables by following animated characters as they try to get recycled.

Tina’s Journal (Video only)
Grade: 5-9 Length: 17 minutes
Source: San Francisco Recycling, 1994
Introduces the new three Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) through the eyes of a teenager.

Solid Waste-Recycling

Recycle. A little effort….A big difference. Recycling in Massachusetts (Video & DVD, in English or Spanish)
Grade: K-12 Length: 11:43 minutes (English) 15:27 minutes (Spanish)
Source: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection with the city of Lawrence, 2004
Explains why recycling is important for our health, economy and the environment in every community in MA and how individuals can help. Shows how recycling provides jobs and products, saves money and reduces the need for landfills and incinerators.

Videos & DVDs

Climate Change

An Inconvenient Truth (DVD only)
Grade: 7-Adult Length: 96 minutes
Source: Paramount Classics
Former Vice President Al Gore’s documentary presents an overview of the impacts of global warming on our civilization and planet. It offers changes we can make to become part of the solution.
Garbage (Video only)
Grade: 1-6    Length: 26 minutes
Source: Bill Nye the Science Guy
Disney explores garbage through a popular television series that children can relate to.

Pollution Solutions (Video only)
Source: Bill Nye the Science Guy
Disney explores some of the solutions to today's pollution problems with this popular children's series.

Recycle Rex (Video only)
Grade: K-6    Length: 10 minutes
Source: Disney Ed. Productions
An award winning Disney production that explains recycling in a way that children can understand.

The Energy Savers (Video only)
Grade: 1-6    Length: 9 minutes
Source: Disney Ed. Productions
Another Disney production that explains how to conserve energy at home and at school.

Tinka's Planet (Video only)
Grade: K-3    Length: 12 minutes
Source: Ben Swets, Donna Warden
Follows the journey of a young girl as she tries to inspire her neighbors to recycle.

Affluenza (Video only)
Grade: 4-12    Length: 60 minutes
Source: 1997
Affluenza explores the high social and environmental costs of materialism and overconsumption. Affluenza is hosted by National Public Radio's engaging Scott Simon. A website for teachers helps support the video. Please visit the website for other support information.

Composting

Composting (Video only)
Compost...Because a Rind is a Terrible Thing to Waste
Grade: 9-12    Length: 37 minutes
Source: Cornell Waste Mgmt.
Shows source separation and composting operations at different businesses and institutions, as well as describing the benefits of a food scrap-composting program to decision-makers in businesses and institutions.

Home Composting: Turning Your Spoils to Soil (Video & DVD)
Grade: 4-12    Length: 17 minutes
Source: State of Connecticut DEP
Teaches home composting of household and yard waste. Suitable for teaching about gardening, recycling, source reduction, as well as composting.

Backyard Composting and Household Hazardous Waste (Video only)
Grade: 1-12    Length: 15 minutes
Source: City of Keene, NH, 2001
Teaches students the value of backyard composting while giving them important information on the dangers of household hazardous wastes.

Wormania! (Video only)
Grade: 4-6    Length: 26 minutes
Source: Mary Applehoff, 1995
Explains how worms can help the environment and includes a step by step “how to” for a food-waste worm compost bin.

Other Resources

Climate Change

Climate Change Backpack®
Grade: 5-12
Source: New England Science Center Collaborative, 2003
A backpack for formal or informal educators containing hands-on materials and a comprehensive Presenter's Guide for conveying the science of climate change, its effects and what we can do to help slow it down. For use indoors or outdoors, contains model ice cores, carbon cycle poster and other props to help convey the concepts. Presenter's guide and workshop schedules available online at www.nescc.info.
Solid Waste-Recycling/Composting

The Recycle Game®
Grade: K-Adult
A board game for 2 to 8 players that teaches the importance of recycling, composting and waste reduction. Players learn about ways to manage waste that help protect our soil, air and water, conserve natural resources, save energy and reduce costs. Included with the game is a comprehensive Learning Guide that explains recycling, composting and waste management in easy-to-understand terms.

Recycling Poster
Grade: K-12
Source: Massachusetts DEP
Poster that visually reminds students of how to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Composting is Easy Poster
Grade: K-12
Source: Massachusetts DEP
Depicts key steps for easy composting on one side and the “Food web of the compost pile” on the other side.

A Manual for Implementing School Recycling Programs
Grade: all Length: 44 pages
Source: MassRecycles, 1998
The primary goal of this document is to outline the key elements in establishing waste diversion programs in schools. Since schools and their recycling programs come in all shapes and sizes, this manual will help you find the recycling system that is right for you.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: A Waste Reduction Activity Kit
Grade: 4-8 Length: 5 day lesson plan
Source: Eco-Cycle
Contains: Slide shows, overheads, experiments, games. All visual aids and materials included. Extension activities for all lessons.
Features: No solid waste/recycling background needed. Flexible curriculum for various age levels. Activities include skills in science, math, language arts, social studies, and art. Students will learn about the history of trash, practice precycling and experiment with a modern landfill, follow recyclables and recyclable products through the steps of reprocessing at the factory, examine recyclable products and more.
# Materials Request Form

School Name/Affiliation ____________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ____________ Zip Code __________________________

Telephone __________________________ Fax __________________________

Contact Name ___________________________________ Contact E-Mail ______________________

Title/Position ________________________ Grade ___________________ Subject __________________

## Material(s) Requested: (Print in order of importance)

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Date Needed ____________________ Alternative Date ____________________

### I, ___________________________ of _____________________________

Borrower’s Signature ___________________________________ Affiliation __________________

Agree to return the above material within the designated time and will be financially responsible if the borrowed material is damaged or lost.

Return request form by mail or fax to:
**The Green Team**  
112 Elm Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 448-6054 Fax

## Office Use Only

School ID # _____ Request Received _______ Date Sent _______ Date Returned _______

Notes:
Evaluation Form

Please help us assess our Library materials and service by answering the following questions. Please return the form by mail or fax to:

The Green Team
112 Elm Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

School Name/Affiliation ____________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________ State __________ Zip Code __________

City ___________________ State ___________________ Zip Code ____________________

Telephone ___________________ Fax ___________________

Contact Name ___________________ Contact E-Mail ___________________

Title/Position _______________ Grade _______________ Subject ___________________

Material(s) Borrowed:

Title: ___________________________________________ Type: __________________________

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Please answer the following questions using ratings from poor to excellent.

1. Was the loan material helpful in conveying the subject matter?

   Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

2. Rate the level of interest of your students in the loan material.

   Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

3. Was the material age appropriate?

   Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

4. Relevance of material to what you are studying in class.

   Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

5. Would you use material from The Green Team library again?  Yes  No

Comments or suggestions: _______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________