



The Green Team News

October 2014 Newsletter

Happy October, Green Team Teachers!

We hope your first month back to school has gone well. Thank you to all educators who have registered! We will be mailing Green Team kits to you soon.

Not yet registered? Please do so soon so we can send you this year's updated Green Team Kit, including the classroom poster and lesson plans! [Register Here.](#)

Once registered, you can apply for [recycling and composting equipment](#) and [idling reduction materials for your school!](#)

Please keep sending your great photos and notes about the great work you have been doing. We would be happy to post photos and stories to [THE GREEN TEAM Photo Gallery](#) and [GREEN TEAM Spotlight.](#)

School Programs, Resources, Competitions and Professional Development

- Do you have any budding reporters in your classroom? Join the National Wildlife Federation as they kick-off their annual [Young Reporters for the Environment Competition.](#)
- A great homework resource for your students, [click here for the EPA's helpful science links!](#)
- An excellent resource for teacher curriculum from the EPA, ["Recipes for Healthy Kids and a Healthy Environment."](#)
- A useful article from the USDA Blog, ["Creative Solutions to Ending Food Waste"](#). The article highlights the comprehensive solutions undertaken by a Virginia-based elementary school.

October

Oct. 8, 1-2 pm – [Webinar](#) on how to nominate your school for the U.S. Department of Education's [Green Ribbon Schools](#) recognition program during the 2014-2015 school year. The award honors schools and districts that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and delivering effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways. DESE asks that schools and districts submit non-binding letters of intent by **October 31** and final applications by **December 11, 2014**. If your school is interested in entering the competition, join the [webinar](#), or visit [Mass DESE's Green Ribbon School webpage](#) or the MA [the Energy Smart Blog.](#)

Oct. 8th-[International Walk to School Day](#)-International Walk to School Day is a global

event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day.

Oct. 15th-Deadline to sign up to participate in the [Keep America Beautiful Recycle-Bowl School Competition](#), which runs from Oct. 21st through Nov. 15th, 2014. Recycle-Bowl is a free national competition and benchmarking tool for K-12 school recycling programs. There are lots of tools and resources for top performers.

Oct. 24th-26th- The New England Environmental Education Alliance and the Maine Environmental Education Association are hosting the [Better Together Summit](#) which will bring together leaders and organizations from many different sectors and endeavors in New England.

Oct. 24th-25th-The [Connecting for Change](#) conference presented by the Marion Institute will take place in New Bedford. The conference will cover a range of topics, including food, farming, health, green business, indigenous knowledge, sustainability and environmental and social justice.

Oct 25, 9 am- 3 pm - [Day of Garden Skills Workshops & Demonstrations for the School Garden](#), Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom's seasonal workshop. This event will take place at the Common School in Amherst in partnership with Bramble Hill Farm. [Click here](#) to access the registration form to be printed, filled out and mailed.

Oct. 28th- The MassDEP's Municipal Assistance Coordinators (MACs) will have a school recycling exhibit at the [63rd Annual School Nutrition Association Fall Conference and Food Show](#) in Worcester MA.

Oct. 31st-MA Green Ribbon Schools deadline for non-binding letter of intent to apply from schools or districts. (Please submit to Lauren Greene at DESE at lgreene@doe.mass.edu).

November

Nov. 5th, 8:30am-3:30pm- The [Massachusetts Envirothon Workshop for Teams](#) will be held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Please sign up by October 24th!

Nov. 7th- The [2014 Sustainable Schools Summit](#) is taking place at Rhode Island College. This conference brings together engaged communities throughout the region and from across sectors to build networks, gather resources, share best practices, and cultivate leadership skills for widespread environmental literacy adoption and implementation in the context of sustainable and healthy schools.

Nov. 8th, 8:30am-3:30pm - [Massachusetts' Agriculture in the Classroom's Fall Greening the School Conference](#) in Brookline. [Click here](#) to access the registration form to be printed, filled out and mailed.

Nov. 13th and 14th- [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. Great tie-in with school gardening projects.

Sept. 1 – Nov. 15 - Entries accepted for 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.

Stay Green!

Sean Pontani & Diana Balmonte
Green Team, Program Administrators

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 240

Fax: (413) 586-7351

Email: recycle@thegreenteam.org

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 240

Fax: (413) 586-7350

Email: recycle@thegreenteam.org



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