



# The Green Team News

## November 2012 News

Despite falling temperatures and the end of the growing season, recycling and composting programs are still running strong. Hingham High School's **compost sales** are catching attention across the state and The Green Team is happy to have helped supply materials. "The compost bins were pretty full last spring so I asked if we could empty the bins out and sell some finished composts," reports Janice McPhillips, a parent volunteer on Hingham High's Green Committee. "I had **several students help me screen and bag up the finished stuff** to take to each sale." The students manned a booth at the Hingham Farmers Market one Saturday in October. "Despite the cold weather and the late season, they sold all 10 bags for \$10 each and made \$100. The money is going to pay for wood for **a new raised bed in the school's courtyard** where we will plant some garlic and perennial herbs this year for [America Recycles Day](#) on November 15<sup>th</sup>!" Janice McPhillips is the Educational Coordinator at [Holly Hill Farm](#) in Cohasset and works with many area schools on gardening and composting projects.

If you're interested in composting bins for your school, materials are available through forms on [The Green Team website](#). We have equipment in stock, and we are responding to requests as they come in. There is a composting lesson plan on the [website](#) and other materials to help you get started.

### School Programs, Resources, and Professional Development

The **Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART)** has been an active promoter of textile recycling to cities and towns across our state. SMART recently partnered with The Education Center to release [a new curriculum designed to bring the textile recycling message into the classroom](#). Free lesson plans, activities, fact sheets and infographics that promote textile recycling are provided, in addition to a free-to-enter sweepstakes for \$500 and \$100 grants for their classroom. Enter today!

### November

On **Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>**, the "**Greening the School**" **Conference for Educators** will take place at the **Clay Science Center of Dexter & Southfield Schools** in **Brookline**. There will be tours of the school and **Allandale Farm** and a choice of concurrent workshops during four workshop sessions. Each will focus on gardening at the school; composting and healthy soils; natural resource conservation or nutrition and local foods. The \$50 fee includes lunch, all materials and ten professional development points with accompanying classroom activity. [Read more about the conference.](#)

**Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>** is **America Recycles Day**. This is a time when many schools take part in "green" activities. For a list of

events, visit <http://americarecyclesday.org/join-event>.

On **Nov. 15-16**, the **Massachusetts Science Teacher and Massachusetts Science Education Leadership Association** (MAST/MSELA) annual conference will take place in Boxborough at the Holiday Inn. The theme for this year is "*Teach to the Future*," and it will support every aspect of science teaching from specific content and lesson ideas to differentiation and other teaching strategies. There is something for every science teacher regardless of the level and content taught or teaching experience. For more information and to sign-up, visit their [website](#).

On **Fri. Nov. 16, 1:30-2:30**, MassDEP's Ann McGovern will give a composting presentation that includes building worm bins and demonstrating outdoor compost bins. The Green Team will also have a display in the exhibit hall, please come by and say hello.

**Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – Calling all artists:** The U.S. Composting Council has announced the annual poster design contest for the **International Compost Awareness Week** to be held this spring from May 6-12. This year's participants are encouraged to submit a design that reflects the theme "Compost: Nature's Way to Grow." The ICAW Poster Contest winner will have his/her winning poster design reproduced and distributed nationwide as the official 2013 ICAW poster, and featured on the USCC website. The contest is running **until November 30<sup>th</sup>**, so check out rules for entry and past winners at their [website](#) and begin your poster now!

#### December

**Dec. 14, 2012** is the deadline to submit your application for the Green Ribbon Schools Awards to the Mass. Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education. Visit [Green Ribbon Schools Recognition](#) for the application and instructions and more information. The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools award honors K-12 schools for exemplary reduction in environmental impact and costs, improvements in the health and wellness of students and staff, and delivery of effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), civic skills, and green career pathways. In 2012, for the first time, schools across Massachusetts are eligible to apply.

Like the Green Team, the **New England Aquarium** also works to both recognize schools for the actions they are taking and encourage them to do more by providing resources and examples of actions at other schools. NEAQ's outreach reaches 35,000 school kids a year and focuses on inspiring young people through hands-on experiences of a variety of ocean animals. By connecting students directly to the ocean they hope to create future stewards of the ocean and the environment in general by focusing on solution and an emphasis on community scale actions. To learn more about the New England Aquarium's school outreach programming visit [www.neaq.org/schooling](http://www.neaq.org/schooling).

#### January

#### **Massachusetts Recycling News**

The state of Massachusetts has recently been recognized as the **leader in energy efficiency**, and our schools have been doing their part to get us there. The savings a school can make from increasing the energy efficiency of their infrastructure can be reinvested in supplies and resources as a solution to budget cuts and increased expenses. According to this [article](#), as much as **30 percent of a school's total energy is used inefficiently or unnecessarily**. Here's the good news – it's quite easy to incorporate small but important changes to your energy use in teachable moments for your students. The Green Team website has activities, such as the [Light Bulb](#)

[Energy Efficiency Lesson](#) and [Reduction Pledge Form](#), which can help illustrate to students how changes that benefit energy efficiency changes can be made. Check our [curricula](#) and [links](#) page for more resources and information!

If you have any questions, please contact me via email or telephone at (413) 586-7350, ext. 225.

Sean Pontani  
Green Team Program Administrator

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 225  
Fax: (413) 586-7350  
Email: [recycle@thegreenteam.org](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org)

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MassDEP Green Team  
320 Riverside Drive 1-A  
Northampton, MA 01062  
US

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