



# the green team NEWSLETTER



SUMMER '11



GREEN TEAM Students Learning to Compost in Quincy, MA.

This year saw nearly 70,000 students from all grade levels participating in THE GREEN TEAM. Three hundred and fifty two teachers in over 250 schools across the state of Massachusetts led these students in a wide range of environmental activities. From setting up recycling and composting programs, to calculating carbon footprints and fighting pollution, these students did their best to help protect our environment. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) continues to be the driving sponsor of THE GREEN TEAM, in conjunction with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA).

A big thank-you to all those who joined the program, and especially to those who have been continually taking steps to make their school's GREEN TEAM stronger, year after year; the activities conducted by GREEN TEAM members have made real differences in schools, local communities, and the state as a whole.

## Program Highlights

Congratulations to the 97 GREEN TEAM classes on completing a wide array of GREEN TEAM activities as submitted on their Teacher Response Forms. These classes represent over 7,000 students across all grade levels, and each class took a unique approach to fitting THE GREEN TEAM within their school and community.

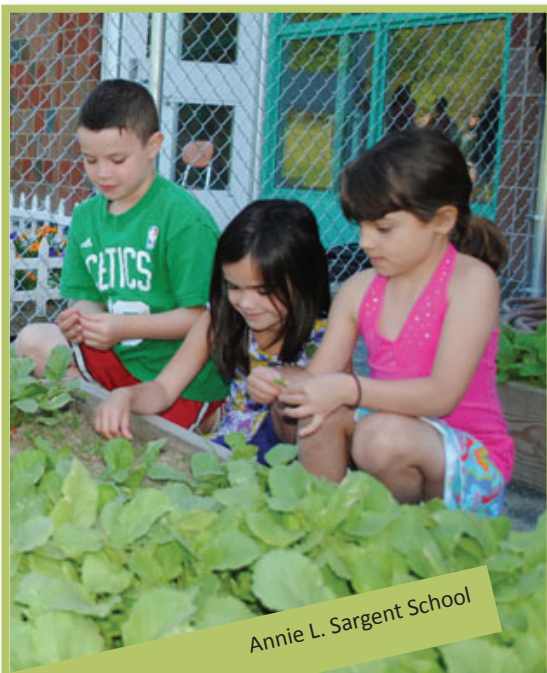
THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE, a pledge to recycle, conserve energy, and prevent pollution throughout the community, is the first step a class takes toward a strong GREEN TEAM. By taking this step, the class achieves the first GREEN TEAM recognition level as "Planet Protectors." With increased environmental efforts, the classes can move their way up to "Conservation Coyotes," as 10 classes did. If a class is especially proactive, and takes multiple steps in helping protect the environment, they can achieve the highest GREEN TEAM level of "Environmental Eagles." To achieve this level, a class must complete GREEN TEAM activities from all three levels. This year, 81 classes were able to reach that distinction and did so in myriad ways.

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## Program Highlights, Cont.



The Sargent School in North Andover is one of the Top 100 TerraCycle recyclers!

At Andover High School, ninth through twelfth grade students, led by teacher Melanie Cutler, created recycling and composting programs, conducted a cafeteria Waste Audit, and started a sustainable garden for the school to grow food for school lunches and sell at local farmer's markets. One student even converted her car to run on biodiesel. Ms. Cutler noted, "We have a very active extracurricular Environmental Club, a strong 9th grade Environmental Science curriculum, and an AP Environmental Science course here at AHS. All groups work together with the goal of making Andover High School more environmentally sustainable."

Roxanne Nieman's fifth grade class combined the sciences with theater to perform Eco-Futures in which they presented designs for the possible future of the environment at Leeds Elementary School. The event used costumes made from recycled materials as it raised awareness of environmental issues. While researching for this event, the students were able to learn about biomes and endangered species, and decided to launch a "Save the Polar Bears" Fund.

Michele Connor taught Leicester Primary School's pre-kindergarten through second grade students the importance of sustainability and recycling, which led to the classes setting up a composting bin for the school. The second

grade students care for this "worm bin," and the school plans to use the compost from this bin in their school garden. Ms. Connor noted that with this project "the children learned about healthy eating habits, the joy of fresh veggies and helping others!" To make sure that others got their veggies too, the students donated 34 lbs. of fresh vegetables to their local food pantry. In addition to all this, the children began a TerraCycle program for empty juice pouches.

Lisa Conti's kindergarten to fifth grade students spent this year building on the solid foundation they laid at Annie L. Sargent School in North Andover in previous years, and are making their school even more environmentally friendly. The school publishes a weekly "Green Tip" for everyone to try and follow, and going green is a focus that the students try to implement in their schoolwork. To start off the year, each student makes a crayon or marker rub of their shoe and uses that as a visual representation of their carbon footprint. They then brainstorm ways to make that footprint smaller. This year, the school set up another composting bin, and they are now using a rain barrel to gather water for use in their garden. The idle-free zone that was set up last year has gone well, and the school performs spot-checks to make sure everyone is abiding. "Sargent School is one of the Top 100 TerraCycle recyclers," Ms. Conti reports. "We have collection in classrooms and monitor lunchroom waste monthly. We recycle hundreds of sneakers each year."

At Elizabeth Stevens Brown Elementary School in Swansea, Lindsay Dopart led fourth grade students in using recycled and reused materials in fun and creative ways. Reused milk cartons were used in their haunted house, used cards were recycled to create new cards for the holidays, and families donated lots of recycled goods for art projects throughout the year. Ms. Dopart reported students became very involved in going green, both inside the class and out. "Students informed me that they were collecting "trash" from home to use for their own projects," she noted. "Students also are constantly asking about our next going green activity."



The Cottage Street School in Sharon, MA knows how to Go Green!

## GREEN TEAM Awards

All 97 participating classes whose teachers submitted Teacher Response Forms were awarded a Certificate of Recognition for the level they achieved. Classes that achieved the "Planet Protectors" distinction were also awarded Trash Terminator bookmarks or pencils made from recycled materials. Those classes that were able to reach the "Conservation Coyotes" or "Environmental Eagles" distinction were entered into a grand prize drawing.

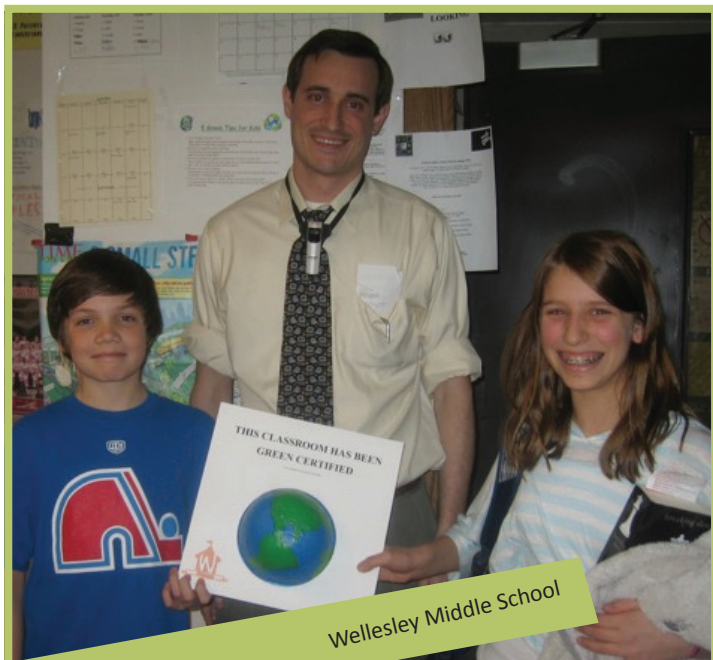
Ten classes were recipients of the grand prize – a school-wide performance by "edu-tainer" Peter O'Malley, Jack Golden, or the musical group Earthtunes. Other prizes included GREEN TEAM wristbands, informational wheels, and activity booklets. For a complete list of GREEN TEAM prize winners and descriptions of their projects, click [here](#).



Brookside Elementary School

The Brookside Elementary GREEN TEAM of Dracut, MA

## THE GREEN TEAM Makes the News!



Wellesley Middle School

GREEN TEAM makes news across the state.

Thanks to some outstanding outreach efforts, some GREEN TEAM members' accomplishments were documented in local newspapers. On June 20th, 2011, SouthCoastToday.com ran an article about the prizes received and the accomplishments made at Hayden-McFadden School, East Fairhaven Elementary School, George R. Austin Intermediate School in Freetown-Lakeville, Sippican School in Marion, and Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School.

The Gloucester Times reported on March 1st, 2011 about the GREEN TEAM students from Manchester-Essex Regional High School that were honored for their service as Green Schools Student Ambassadors by the Legislature's Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture at the State House. On November 21st, 2010, The Boston Globe wrote about Eric Magers, winner of the MassRecycle Leadership Award for heading the Manchester Essex School District's GREEN TEAM. On June 5th, 2011, the Wayland Patch reported on the Claypit Hill School's push to start a composting program.

# Recycling and Composting Equipment Distribution

Forty-nine schools in Massachusetts received equipment from THE GREEN TEAM to initiate or enhance their school recycling and/or composting programs. Four hundred and eighty four classroom recycle bins, 14 desk-side recycle boxes, and 69 wheeled carts were distributed to the following GREEN TEAM schools:

- Colebrook High School, Acton
- Mary Lee Burbank Elementary School, Belmont
- Hannah Elementary School, Beverly
- Hajjar Elementary School, Billerica
- Monument High School, Boston
- William McKinley Preparatory High School, Boston
- Tahanto Regional Middle/High School, Boylston
- Dean S. Luce Elementary School, Canton
- Selser Memorial School, Chicopee
- Ursuline Academy, Dedham
- Chandler School, Duxbury
- Curtis Guild School, East Boston
- East Fairhaven Elementary School
- Florence Roche Elementary School, Groton
- Hancock Central School
- Harwich High School
- Community Action, Inc. Head Start Program, Haverhill
- Maurice A. Donahue Elementary School, Holyoke
- Silver Lake Regional Middle School, Kingston
- Leicester High School
- Lenox Memorial Middle and High School
- Pearl E. Rhodes Elementary School, Leyden
- Hellenic American Academy, Lowell
- Katherine P. Stoklosa Middle School, Lowell
- Brookside Elementary School, Milford
- F.A. Day Middle School, Newton
- Newton South High School
- Norwell High School
- Orleans Elementary School
- Plymouth North High School
- Thomas Prince School, Princeton
- Mutanafisun Academy, Quincy
- Sharon Middle School
- Station Avenue Elementary School, South Yarmouth
- Alfred G. Zanetti Montessori Magnet School, Springfield
- S.A.F.E. Springfield Academy Elementary School
- Stanley School, Swampscott
- Claypit High School, Wayland



South Shore Public Charter School in Norwell, MA.



Snug Harbor School in Quincy, MA

## Recycling and Composting Equipment Distribution, cont.



Snug Harbor School in Quincy, MA.



Dr. Paul Nettle Middle School in Haverhill, MA.

- Happy Hollow School, Wayland
- Loker School, Wayland
- Wayland Middle School
- Fiske Elementary School, Wellesley
- Preschool at Wellesley Schools
- Sprague Elementary School, Wellesley
- Fales Elementary School, Westborough
- Mill Pond School, Westborough
- North Middle School, Westfield
- Marguerite E. Small Elementary School, West Yarmouth
- Muraco Elementary School, Winchester

Additionally, 36 compost bins were distributed to the following schools:

- Colebrook High School, Acton
- Mary Lee Burbank Elementary School, Belmont
- Hajjar Elementary School, Billerica
- Monument High School, Boston
- William McKinley Preparatory High School, Boston
- Tahanto Regional Middle/High School, Boylston
- Selser Memorial School, Chicopee
- Curtis Guild School, East Boston
- Florence Roche Elementary School, Groton
- Hancock Central School
- Harwich High School
- Silver Lake Regional Middle School, Kingston
- Leicester High School
- Lenox Memorial Middle and High School
- Katherine P. Stoklosa Middle School, Lowell
- Brookside Elementary School, Milford
- F.A. Day Middle School, Newton
- Norwell High School
- Orleans Elementary School
- Plymouth North High School
- Thomas Prince School, Princeton
- Station Avenue Elementary School, South Yarmouth
- Alfred G. Zanetti Montessori Magnet School, Springfield
- S.A.F.E. Springfield Academy Elementary School
- Claypit Hill School, Wayland
- Wayland Middle School
- Fiske Elementary School, Wellesley

## Recycling and Composting Equipment Distribution, cont.

THE GREEN TEAM received great feedback following the recycling equipment and compost bin distribution:

"Thanks to the GREEN TEAM program our recycling program can expand at no cost to the school." **Donna Pirog, North Middle School, Westfield**

"We are grateful to the DEP and THE GREEN TEAM for their generous support both in materials and advice." **Phyllis Theermann, Sprague Elementary School, Wellesley**

"Keep it coming! I have been thrilled with the resources and support I've gotten from THE GREEN TEAM." **Denise Porcello, Brookside Elementary School, Dracut**

"The New Age compost bins are terrific – easy to assemble and use, even for small children such as second graders!!" **Claypit Hill School, Wayland**

"We are a huge fan of THE GREEN TEAM equipment program! The equipment we have received over the past 3 years has enabled the program to begin and to flourish. Thank you!" **Maura Sullivan, Muraco Elementary School, Winchester**

"The availability of the recycling equipment has allowed our school to become more involved in recycling and the students have really responded to our quest to be a GREEN TEAM school." **Tanya O'Malley, Hannah Elementary School, Beverly**



Annie L. Sargent School

GREEN TEAM Students in North Andover.



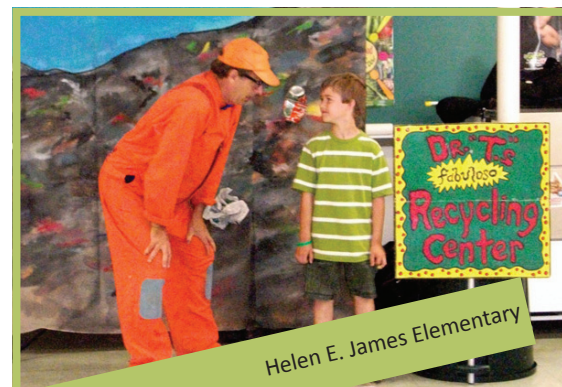
Captain Samuel Brown School

GREEN TEAM Students in Peabody MA

# Idling Reduction Materials Distribution

Thirteen schools added their names to the growing list of classes pledging to make their school an idle-free zone. These schools requested materials from THE GREEN TEAM to support their effort. THE GREEN TEAM was distributed 25 "idle-free zone" signs, 12 "five-minute idling limit" signs, 1,400 idling reduction pledge cards, 850 static sticker windshield decals, 800 bumper stickers, 250 school bus dashboard stickers, and 2,200 palm cards to the following GREEN TEAM schools:

- Monument High School, Boston
- Tahanto Regional Middle/High School, Boylston
- Eastham Elementary School
- Community Action, Inc. Head Start Program, Haverhill
- Fowler School, Maynard
- Roosevelt Elementary School, Melrose
- Zervas School, Newton
- Northfield Elementary School
- Norwell Middle School
- Wellesley Middle School
- Sprague Elementary School, Wellesley
- Mill Pond School, Westborough
- Helen E. James Elementary School, Williamsburg



GREEN TEAM prize winners in Williamsburg.

Below are some GREEN TEAM teacher comments about the Idling Reduction materials they received:

"The signs are bright and colorful. Parents were informed of the program through our school newsletter before the signs were put in place. We have found parents very willing to comply with the new program." **Christina Bailey, Norwell Middle School**

"THE GREEN TEAM'S support and entire program has truly been a hit in my classes in Williamsburg, and our name is constantly connected with THE GREEN TEAM! Thank you, we are making a difference and we will continue to work on/with this program." **Johanna Korpita, Helen E. James Elementary School, Williamsburg**

## GREEN TEAMS go On-line!

This year, some schools sent in great links to videos and slide shows to show us what they have been doing. Check them out!

Oakmont Regional High School, Ashburnham: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuLLVoUohH0>

"We created a YouTube video with kids describing their "Do One Thing" for the planet. Search "OEA DOT" on YouTube to see it."- Alana Archangelo

Boston Latin School: [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/BLS\\_Youth\\_C.A.N./Viewing\\_the\\_Garden\\_Site\\_with\\_BPS\\_Facilities.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/BLS_Youth_C.A.N./Viewing_the_Garden_Site_with_BPS_Facilities.html)

"In September, BLS Youth CAN met with BPS Facilities staff to get permission for our student garden, and to update them about the Green Roof proposal progress. We had a great meeting and it was a great way to start off the year."- Cate Arnold

Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, Boston: [www.planetgreenrecycle.com/kennedyacademy](http://www.planetgreenrecycle.com/kennedyacademy)

"Our recycling team joined Planet Green to start a fundraiser for our school. Students, staff and parents can buy recycled ink cartridges on our webpage and 15% of the sales will be donated to our school."- Angela Cappucci



## Quotes from GREEN TEAM Schools

"We love it. The kids proudly tell visitors, "TEAM 208 is the Green Team!"

**Marty Wrin, *Maria L Baldwin School, Cambridge***

"LOVE the GREEN TEAM!!!" **Michele Connor, *Leicester Primary School***

"Thank you for this wonderful opportunity." **Judi Schilling, *Pearl E. Rhodes Elementary School, Leyden***

"Wonderful, uplifting project. Conservation begins with youth!"

**Karen Popken, *River Valley Charter School, Newburyport***

"Students truly enjoy being care givers/care takers of the Earth and take their role seriously."

**Kimberly Chaput, *Philip G Coburn Elementary School, West Springfield***

"These activities helped the students in room 206 to become more aware of how important it is to go green and think about how we can all (even young people) make a difference if we work together for changes."

**Gisele Sotolotto, *Roberta G Doering School, Agawam***

"Thank you for all of your continued work to ensure that the school children are included in the activities."

**Gisele Sotolotto, *Roberta G. Doering School, Agawam***

"Raised student awareness of all green issues. Learned about alternative energy sources and climate change in the process." **Kate Fitzmaurice, *McCarthy-Towne School, Acton***

"The activities really opened the eyes of my students to how much can be recycled. The fifth graders are the driving force of the recycling program at our school. It is a job they love!"

**Stacy Alexander, *Hannah Elementary School, Beverly***

"The students learn that working together is not only fun, but can produce results that make changes in their world." **Judy Nawrocki, *Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley***

"My students became more aware of the impact they make on the environment. They are all participating."

**Caroline Ballou, *East Boston High School***

"The students were more aware of how they can take control of their role with the environment and that even small changes can make a big difference if done by enough people."

**Jason Schneider, *James Madison Morton Middle School, Fall River***

"The kids are learning that knowledge is power; that what they learn at school has direct relevance to their daily lives; that they have the ability and responsibility to form opinions based on facts and to act on them."

**Sally Andreola, *Harwich Middle School***

"The children come away with a greater awareness of the difference they can make"

**Beth McNamara, *George R. Austin Intermediate School, Lakeville***

"The kids see themselves as activists, not just learners about the issues. They also take home some of their knowledge and nudge their families towards "greener" habits."

**Kim Gerould, *Jackson Street School, Northampton***

