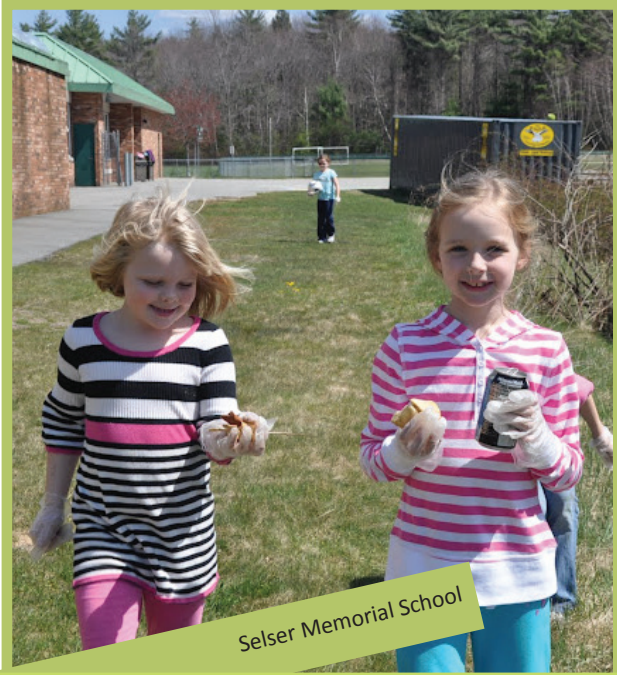




the green team NEWSLETTER



SUMMER '12



GREEN TEAM Students from Chicopee, MA.

Participation in THE GREEN TEAM in 2011-2012 grew to well over 94,000 students from all grade levels. Four hundred and sixteen teachers in 326 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, conserving energy and fighting pollution, these students took action to help protect our environment.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) sponsors THE GREEN TEAM, in conjunction with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). A big thank-you goes out to all the students and staff who joined the program, especially those who have been continually taking steps to make their school's GREEN TEAM bigger and better each year. Activities conducted by GREEN TEAM members have made real differences for their schools, families, communities, and the state as a whole.

Program Highlights

Congratulations to the 102 GREEN TEAM classes who completed a wide array of GREEN TEAM activities and submitted Teacher Response Forms. These classes represent over 10,000 students across all grade levels, and each class took a unique approach to developing GREEN TEAM activities within their schools and communities.

THE GREEN TEAM PLEDGE, a pledge to recycle, conserve energy, and prevent pollution at school, home, and throughout the community, is the first step a class takes towards creating a strong GREEN TEAM. By taking this step, the class achieves the first GREEN TEAM recognition level as "Planet Protectors." With increased environmental efforts, students progress through three GREEN TEAM levels. Four classes that also completed a Level 2 activity such as the "Climate Change Scorecard" lesson, received recognition as "Conservation Coyotes." Ninety-eight classes went on to achieve the highest GREEN TEAM level, "Environmental Eagles," by completing activities at the first two levels plus at least one from the third, such as starting recycling or composting programs. Many classes creatively expanded on THE GREEN TEAM activities this year.

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Students in Chicopee testing the "health" of the water at Chicopee State Park.

Program Highlights, Cont.

At Selser Memorial School in Chicopee, students led by Judith Hebert calculated the "health" of the water at Chicopee State Park and learned how water is tested for clarity. They wrote Open Response letters in which they demonstrated their knowledge of point and non-point pollution, with emphasis on collecting trash before it impacts the waterways. They also interviewed adults in the community to test their knowledge of watershed health, and created water filters to clean "polluted" water. Grade 5 students participated in World Water Monitoring Day and created a water pollution simulation activity for use in their study of the Chicopee and Connecticut River watersheds.

John Hodsdon's sixth grade students at Holten-Richmond Middle School in Danvers did a research project on a local environmental issue. Students used the library, interviews, and local resources while conducting research. They then designed a community service learning project about their topic and carried out this project. Through this experience students were able to learn about an environmental issue that affects them directly in their local area, and also find a way that they could help their community.

Students at Higham High School planned a "Green Week" leading up to Earth Hour in March, with the help of their Principal, Richard Swanson. Their themed days included "Car Pool Day," "Trayless Tuesday" (in the cafeteria), "Pack the Rack Day," "Lunch Box Day" and "Power Down Day." Local businesses provided incentives for students and teachers to participate. Andrew Ference of the Boston Bruins visited on Wednesday of the Green Week. His visit will be the subject of an upcoming episode of National Geographic's "Beyond the Puck" web series. Students continued their green work by running a number of drives such as a computer recycling drive and a used book drive. They also won a contest sponsored by Jordan's Furniture to collect gently used baseball and softball equipment for donation to the RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City) program. In addition, they expanded cafeteria recycling and composting, have three full "New Age Composters" behind the school and plan to sell compost at a local plant sale. "Recruiting our high school sports teams to supervise the recycling and composting stations has been instrumental in this initiative," noted Principal Swanson.

Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School in Shelburne Falls has now completed their second year of all-school gardening at every grade level, from PK to 6th grade. GREEN TEAM teacher Karen Eldred is happy to report that the 5th graders this year joined the preschool children in composting. The key message of being good stewards to the earth is taught to all students, starting at a young age.

Michael Dulaski's classroom at North Middle School in Westfield went green for the winter. By utilizing their location on the south side of the building and allowing the sun to heat the room the class managed not to turn the heat on for the entire winter season! The class also kept the lights off during the day when possible and used the sunlight to illuminate the room. The students also turned off the computers any time they could and participated in school-wide recycling. "Students gained a better understanding of how to waste less to protect the environment," reported Mr. Dulaski.



Thomas Prince School students in Princeton Go Green!

GREEN TEAM Awards

All 102 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. Classes that reached "Conservation Coyotes" or "Environmental Eagles" distinction were entered into a drawing for prizes such as GREEN TEAM wristbands, informational wheels, activity booklets and biodegradable key rings made from corn. "Environmental Eagles" were also entered into a grand prize drawing.

Fourteen classes were recipients of a grand prize, such as a school-wide performance by "edu-tainer" Peter O'Malley, Jack Golden, or the musical group Earthtunes or a gift card to a local garden center to purchase trees or garden supplies to further "green" their schools. For a complete list of GREEN TEAM prize winners and descriptions of their projects, visit <http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/press/0612grte.htm>.



The Thomas Prince GREEN TEAM of Princeton, MA

THE GREEN TEAM in the News!



GREEN TEAM makes news in 2012

The Barnstable Patriot reported on the actions taken by schools across the Cape to reduce trash and increase recycling. The September 1st, 2011 article highlights THE GREEN TEAM from Barnstable Intermediate School and their active recycling program.

CBS News featured a local Food Corps project from the Ford School in Lynn, a GREEN TEAM school, bringing together young leaders, school children, gardening and healthy eating. It's inspiring to see the excitement sparkling in those children, and to know that our GREEN TEAM participants feel the same way. You can see the news video at http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7389535n&tag=mncol;lst;1****

Hingham High School GREEN TEAM students received coverage of their "Green Week" on boston.com when Andrew Ference of the Boston Bruins visited. See the slide show for more information on Hingham High Schools Green Week and Andrew Ference's visit at: http://www.boston.com/yourtown/hingham/gallery/b Bruins_andrew_ference_visits_hingham_high/. Way to go Hingham High School GREEN TEAM!

Jessica Sanchez' GREEN TEAM students at Joseph Case Jr. High School in Swansea were featured in the March 14, 2012 South Coast Today, <http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120314/PUB05/203140418&cid=sitesearch>. Their teacher received recognition and congratulations from the school committee for helping students understand the importance of recycling, reducing, and reusing. Nice job by the Case Junior High GREEN TEAM!

Recycling and Composting Equipment Distribution

Sixty-nine schools in Massachusetts received equipment from THE GREEN TEAM to initiate or enhance their school recycling and/or composting programs. 769 classroom recycling bins and 125 wheeled carts were distributed to the following GREEN TEAM schools:

- Ayer High School
- Boylston Elementary School
- Selser Memorial School, Chicopee
- Wahconah Regional High School, Dalton
- Mother Caroline Academy & Education Center, Dorchester
- Richard J. Murphy K-8 School, Dorchester
- Chandler School, Duxbury
- Tri-County Schools, Easthampton
- Gabriel Abbott School, Florida
- Hardwick Elementary School, Gilbertville
- Gill Elementary School
- Muddy Brook Elementary School, Great Barrington
- Hildreth Elementary School, Harvard
- Bradford Elementary School, Haverhill
- Dr. Albert B. Consentino Middle School, Haverhill
- Dr. Paul Nettle Middle School, Haverhill
- Tilton Elementary School, Haverhill
- Gateway Regional High School, Huntington
- Lowell Community Charter Public School
- Lowell High School
- Peter W. Reilly School, Lowell
- Sullivan Middle School, Lowell
- Robert L. Ford K-8 NASA Explorer School, Lynn
- Montague Elementary School
- Nativity Preparatory School Of New Bedford
- Brayton Elementary School, North Adams
- Norwell Middle School
- Home for Little Wanderers Southeast Campus, Plymouth
- Nathaniel Morton Elementary School, Plymouth
- Sharon High School
- Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Shelburne Falls
- Somerset Berkeley Regional High School
- Excel High School, South Boston
- Laurence C. Macarthur Elementary School, South Yarmouth
- Station Avenue Elementary School, South Yarmouth
- Notre Dame Academy, Tyngsboro
- Walpole High School
- Westborough High School
- Ezra Baker Elementary School, West Dennis
- Marguerite E. Small Elementary School, West Yarmouth
- Lynch Elementary School, Winchester



Selser Memorial School in Chicopee



Selser Memorial School's Compost pile!



Recycling and Composting Equipment Distribution, cont.

Additionally, 56 compost bins were distributed to the following schools:

- Andover High School
- Mary Lee Burbank Elementary School, Belmont
- Boylston Elementary School
- Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, Cambridge
- Wahconah Regional High School, Dalton
- Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School
- Tri-County Schools, Easthampton
- Mullen-Hall School, Falmouth
- Hardwick Elementary School, Gilbertville
- Muddy Brook Elementary School, Great Barrington
- Harwich Middle School
- Community Action, Inc. Head Start Program, Haverhill
- Dr. Albert B. Consentino Middle School, Haverhill
- Hill View Montessori Charter Public School, Haverhill
- Hingham High School
- Saint Paul Elementary School, Hingham
- William L. Foster Elementary School, Hingham
- Lowell High School
- Robert L. Ford K-8 NASA Explorer School, Lynn
- Manchester Jr - Sr High School
- Donald P. Timony Grammar School, Methuen
- Middleborough High School
- Montague Elementary School
- Nativity Preparatory School Of New Bedford
- Cabot Elementary School, Newton
- Home for Little Wanderers Southeast Campus, Plymouth
- Sharon High School
- Sharon Middle School

Spotlight: Thomas Prince School, Princeton

Established in the fall of 2010 at the Thomas Prince School, the Princeton PTA GREEN TEAM innovatively and positively affects more than 400 K-8 students by incorporating environmental education, environmental awareness and environmental stewardship in their daily school activities. THE GREEN TEAM program is innovative in the variety of projects it implements as it affects the daily lives of the students and staff. Through donations from area businesses, partnerships with nonprofits, and funding by private donors and the Princeton PTA, THE GREEN TEAM regularly brings environmental education and enrichment opportunities to the students from earth science-related assemblies, to outdoor naturalist-led classes, to a thriving organic school garden. THE GREEN TEAM has increased recycling through numerous creative initiatives like student-created posters, to recyclables collections, to waste-free lunch days. Beautification efforts, including leading efforts to revitalize school courtyards into outdoor classrooms, reinforces environmental consciousness and civic responsibility. All of these efforts, which are sustained through a group of core volunteers and can be replicated in any school environment, not only positively affect students and staff but also their families, the greater community, and, of course, the environment.



The Thomas Prince GREEN TEAM!

Recycling and Composting Equipment Distribution, cont.

After this distribution, THE GREEN TEAM received wonderful responses:

"The new bins have enabled Lowell High School to recycle more throughout the school. We have around 25 students who stay after to collect and keep LHS green." **Rose Bowie, Lowell High School**

"Our recycling program is organized by the Autism classroom, which provides these students with an opportunity to become part of the community, receive occupational therapy, and get exercise. Classroom recycling is also providing an opportunity for teachers to educate students about making healthy choices for the environment." **Kerry Troup, Excel High School, South Boston**

"The equipment made it easier for our staff and students to spot recycling containers in classrooms, hallways, the cafeteria, and offices, thus making it easier to recycle." **Eileen Kalivas, Ezra Baker Elementary School, West Dennis**

"We couldn't do the amount of recycling that we do without the recycling bins, and we are very grateful for them!" **Karen Baumgartner, Walpole High School**

"It was great, as a teacher serving in a low-income school, to be able to get FREE recycling bins! This also sparked interest in many students about how and why it is important to recycle." **Richelle Records, Mother Caroline Academy & Education Center, Dorchester**

"We have enlisted our sports teams to monitor composting efforts in the school cafeteria. Their enthusiasm has provided a big boost to green initiatives at our school. Equipment provided by the DEP has enabled this to take place." **Richard Swanson, Hingham High School**

"We have been able to expand our compost program to all parts of the school including kitchens, dining halls and gardens! The bins have been exceptional additions to our expanding program!" **Eric Magers, Manchester Jr - Sr High School**

Spotlight: Helen E. James Elementary School, Williamsburg

Since 2004, Johanna Korpita's 1st & 2nd grade students have been continuing on the previous class's success. Helen E. James' GREEN TEAMS have continued with many of the programs that the other classes have established over the last 8 years. Johanna reported, "Each year, we try to do something that the other classes haven't done. This year, we learned a lot about what we, as 6 year olds, could do to help the Earth. The children decided that they wanted to make a film to encourage others to help the Earth. We brainstormed, they told me points that they wanted people to understand, and then I typed up a script. They practiced their lines, eventually memorized their parts, and then I filmed their "Public Service Announcement", entitled IT'S EASY BEING GREEN! We then showed this film to all classes in both of our town's schools. Later on in the year, we had a premiere of our PSA at a Williamsburg School Committee meeting. The School Committee, our School District Superintendent, our School Principal, and many townsfolk and parents viewed the PSA and they were all duly impressed! It was a wonderful learning experience for everyone!" The Helen E James School is also working with their school cafeteria, custodian and gardening committee, with assistance from the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) to coordinate composting school lunch waste. A local farm is willing to take the compost that the school garden can't use. The First Grade GREEN TEAM will be hard at work to make the compost program successful. Speaking on how her students benefited from THE GREEN TEAM program, Johanna said, "They are very aware of the difference that they can make. They have honed their public speaking skills and they have become wonderful champions for their cause!"



Idling Reduction Materials Distribution

Increased interest in the Idle Reduction materials had 18 schools add 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 able to distribute 22 "idle-free zone" signs, 65 "five-minute idling limit" signs, 1800 idling reduction pledge cards, 2300 static sticker windshield decals, 1000 bumper stickers, 1050 school bus dashboard stickers, and 4100 palm cards to the following schools:

- Oakmont Regional High School, Ashburnham
- Rainbow Workshop And Learning Center, Assonet
- Holten-Richmond Middle School, Danvers
- Harwich Middle School
- Hingham High School
- Old Rochester Regional High School, Mattapoisett
- Maynard High School
- J F Kennedy Middle School, Natick
- South Shore Charter Public School, Norwell
- South Memorial Elementary School, Peabody
- Sharon Middle School
- Pine Hill Elementary School, Sherborn
- Joseph Case Jr High, Swansea
- Greater Lowell Technical High School, Tyngsboro
- Walpole High School
- Wellesley Middle School
- William Seach Primary School, Weymouth
- Ambrose Elementary School, Winchester



Students have fun with GREEN TEAM in Danvers, MA

"It has been great to be able to educate not only the students, but their parents as well. Even the teachers in our school have been participating in the pledge as well. It is a great community effort! Our school has many parents come to pick up their children from school and now they know to shut off their engines." **Jessica Sanchez, Joseph Case Jr. High School, Swansea**



Selser Memorial Students in Chicopee, MA

"...We are a commuter school drawing from 20+ towns, and most of our students are driven/picked up by car, so we will post signs in LONG waiting lines!" **Claire Overlee, South Shore Charter Public School, Norwell**

"The signs will be hung outside our school building near main doors and in parking areas where parents drop off and pick up students. The decals will be given to each student for family's vehicle, as well as one for each staff member, to get our community aware of our mission to help be more green." **Debbie St. Ives, William Seach Primary School, Weymouth**

"The high school will be installing no idling signs in front of the high school. The kids were recognized by the school board for researching, educating, and having the school community sign a petition for the zone. They then presented the letter to the school board." **Karen Baumgartner, Walpole High School**

Quotes from GREEN TEAM Schools

Below are some comments from GREEN TEAM teachers:

"The students are learning leadership skills in addition to feeling good about helping 'save the world.'" **Judith Luber-Narod, Abbey Kelly Foster Charter Public School, Worcester**

"We learned that even the youngest children can make a difference." **Elizabeth Travers, Abundant Life Christian School, Wilmington**

"Students have made recycling part of their everyday life." **Denise Porcello, Brookside Elementary School, Dracut**

"Being good stewards to the earth starts young and the message is taught now." **Karen Eldred, Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, Shelburne Falls**

"These projects have been spectacular. The kids have really gotten into it!" **Kris Melanson, Centerville Elementary School, Beverly**

"We love being THE GREEN TEAM at our school. We have an important job and everyone appreciates our hard work!" **Matthew Bencal, Danvers High School**

"The Recycling Team benefited by organizing different activities throughout the year. The students are looked up to by their peers as positive role models." **Angela Cappucci, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, Boston**

"Students are excited to know what they can do to help the environment, even though they are 'just kids.'" **Valerie Bushell, Elizabeth Stevens Brown Elementary School, Swansea**

"The students became more aware of what it means to 'go green' and how we can keep the earth healthy. In the long run, this benefits everyone." **Carol Maynard, Elizabeth Stevens Brown Elementary School, Swansea**

"Students were made aware of the waste that is produced by everyday activities. The students realized that THEY could make a change if they wanted to." **Deb Roussell, Fowler School, Maynard**

"My students were able to recognize how important recycling is for our world. They learned that recycling can be fun!" **Kimberly Katz, Frank M. Silvia Elementary School, Fall River**

"GREEN TEAM activities really excite the students. They love it." **Rachel Bodine, Hancock Elementary School**

"The kids feel so empowered to be able to take actions that so directly make positive change. Once the small group got recycling underway, many more students became involved. The school has decreased trash production by more than half!" **Sally Andreola, Harwich Middle School**

"They learned the importance of creating a team to help make recycling more effective. By involving the entire school we can all achieve more!" **Krystal Cardoza, Somerset Berkeley Regional High School**

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for our students of all ages to get connected with nature, the community, and how to make a difference in their local community. We have students that are composting and gardening at home now." **Danielle Crescione, Tri-County Schools, Easthampton**

