



The Green Team News

February 2013 News

We've reached the longest month of winter, but the end is in sight! The beginning of February is also host to the [National Green Week](#), an annual event that empowers schools to engage in sustainability focused lessons, projects or activities between February 4 and the end of Earth Month in April. As we inch closer to spring (and Earth Day), consider incorporating activities about the environment and recycling in your classroom!

Below are some great opportunities we hope you can take advantage of. We look forward to hearing about your students' accomplishments when you submit your [Teacher Response Form](#) (due by Mar. 31).

If you're interested in recycling or 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

February

Wednesday, February 20th, 4:00-5:00 p.m. - Consider joining the **National Wildlife Federation** for a free webinar to help you and your students prepare for National Wildlife Week, March 18-24, 2013. This year National Wildlife Week is celebrating trees. Join the fun "Branching out for Wildlife" and learn about the parts of a tree, the importance of trees in many ecosystems, and how people and wildlife depend on trees. Join NWF for the webinar and learn more about ways to teach about wildlife and engage students with ideas for service projects to help wildlife in their communities and across the nation. For more information and registration, visit their [website](#).

Wednesday, February 20th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - A **Green Dollhouse Workshop** will be held at the Greenfield High School. This workshop helps model and display energy efficient construction through building a miniature home. Parents, educators and youth accompanied by a parent are invited to get started on building your own Green Dollhouse to enter in the Green Dollhouse Challenge at Greening Greenfield's [Science and Sustainability Expo](#) to be held in April. You will

exchange ideas, make plans, explore materials, share knowledge and learn about green building features and sustainable landscapes. Registrants will receive a list of suggested materials & tools to bring in addition to some materials on hand. See www.energyteachers.org for more information about the project. To register for the workshop, email the following information to sreyes7@mac.com: your name, position, school or organization, youth ages/grades served, address, email, and phone numbers. Note age if bringing a child. A confirmation with the site location will be emailed to you.

Monday, February 28th – Contest deadline for the [Healthy and Sustainable Food Journalism Awards](#), a high school competition designed to bring the hard facts about school food to entire school communities – in the students’ own words. Articles submitted for consideration must be about the need for healthy, sustainable school food and must have been published in a school newspaper. Best-selling author and food activist **Michael Pollan** will judge the finalists and select the winners who will receive cash prizes (\$1,500 for first place!) and \$200 for their journalism class. Winners will be announced on Earth Day – April 22, 2013.

March

Saturday, March 9th, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The 12th Annual Growing Minds through Massachusetts Agriculture Conference for Educators will be held at the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow, MA. Sponsored by **Mass Agriculture in the Classroom**, this year's conference will feature a choice of four concurrent workshops during each session throughout the day. Each workshop will be taught by a school teacher, farm educator or a teacher working together with a farmer. Workshops will offer specific background and activities for either elementary, middle or high school level. Topics include: composting, school gardening, soils, nutrition, animals, fibers, connecting the farm to school, specific lessons ideas and more. Don't miss this day of discussion, interaction and opportunities for exploring new ideas for your Massachusetts classroom. **The fee is \$50 and includes all workshops, lunch, materials and 10 pdp's with a related classroom activity. You can read more information and download the registration form at their [website](#).**

Wednesday, March 6th, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) 2012 Conference – "Refresh: New Tools and Techniques for Today's Educators" – will be held at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Workshops will share ideas for revitalizing education practice and the systems used to promote environmental education. Workshops will provide tools that can be used to promote positive environmental education with a wide variety of audience and to keep the message of environmental conservation fresh, timely, and inspiring across the state. Visit their [website](#) to register or to download the Conference Brochure to review workshops and print out the registration form to mail.

Tuesday, March 19th, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. - The MassRecycle Conference and Tradeshow will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Boxborough. Teachers are welcome and there will be a special School Recycling and Composting track. The R3 Conference - Real World Issues, Real World Solutions, MassRecycle – will feature six different topic tracks - Policy, Organics, Municipal, Business, K-12 & College Summits, and Emerging Diversion Trends. The Green

Team will be exhibiting so come by and say hello! Visit the [MassRecycle website](#) for more information and to register.

Thursday, March 22, 2013 – Deadline to submit nominations for the **Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Awards**. Winners are acknowledged at a ceremony at the State House in May. “With this program, we recognize teachers and students who inspire their communities by exploring our most challenging environmental and energy issues,” said Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. “These educators and students work hard each day to learn about adopting clean energy sources, protecting wildlife, recycling and conserving natural resources.” The nomination is web-based and can be found at the [Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website](#). Consider nominating your Green Team!

Recycling News from around the U.S.

Another young entrepreneurial recycler has made headlines! Vanis Buckholz began collecting bottles and cans in his community of Corona del Mar, California after an Earth Day presentation at his school about the importance of recycling. He services his customers now by bike with a pull-behind trailer. He even donates a portion of his proceeds to charity. Read more about his story [here](#).

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

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