



# The Green Team News

## April 2014 Newsletter

### Happy Earth Month!

Celebrate Earth Month and get outside! Warmer weather gives you the chance to get outside and tend to your garden and give that compost bin a stir!

**Thank you for submitting your Teacher Response Form! We will be sending your Certificate of Recognition and student prizes in May. We have been incredibly impressed with the great environmental stewardship actions you have helped your students take! All your actions add up to make a big difference for Planet Earth!**

There are a lot of great resources, opportunities, contests and events coming up over the next few months. See below for dates and descriptions!

### School Programs, Resources, Competitions and Professional Development

#### April

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** – [KIDSFEST: Codman Branch Library](#), 11:00am – 12:30pm. [The Boston Enviro-Film Festival](#) and “e” inc. presents [KIDSFEST](#), a free event in the Boston area. KIDSFEST brings fun animations about the planet to children and families for *free*.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** – [MassRecycle’s R3 Organics and Recycling Conference](#) 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough. There will be specific sessions on school recycling and composting at this annual conference. Join other teachers, parent volunteers, students and facilities staff and see what is possible in your schools. The Green Team will be there and we hope to see you there! Register at the door.

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** – [KIDSFEST: Jamaica Plain Public Library](#), 11:00am – 12:30pm. [The Boston Enviro-Film Festival](#) and “e” inc. presents [KIDSFEST](#), a free event in the Boston area. KIDSFEST brings fun animations about the planet to children and families for *free*.

**April 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>** – [National Environmental Education Week](#) is a national celebration of environmental education. It inspires environmental learning and stewardship among K-12 students. This year’s theme, [Greening STEM: Engineering a Sustainable World](#), will explore the application of engineering to sustainable solutions for a healthier planet and healthier people. [Register here](#) to receive certificates of participation, free online resources, information on professional development and more.

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Deadline** – [EECapacity's Community Climate Change Fellowship](#) is currently accepting applications from community and environmental educators who want to address climate change issues in their communities through innovative education and engagement strategies. Fellows will meet their colleagues at a five-day professional development workshop, take part in special webinars, and attend the [2014 NAAEE International Conference](#). [Apply here](#) by 8pm on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – [KIDSFEST: Building 114, Charlestown Navy Yard](#), 11:00am – 12:30pm. [The Boston Enviro-Film Festival](#) and "e" inc. presents [KIDSFEST](#), a free event in the Boston area. KIDSFEST brings fun animations about the planet to children and families for *free*.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Earth Day - [The Earth Day Network](#) provides an on-line resource for planning and hosting Earth Day events in your school and community. Start planning now!

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** – [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom](#) and [Tranquil Lake Nursery](#) presents the [Day of Garden Skills Workshops and Demonstrations for the School Garden](#). Spend this Saturday brushing up on your gardening skills to get yourself ready for the gardening season ahead. Twelve useful workshops and demonstrations will be conducted throughout the day starting at 9:00am. Workshops will include building raised beds, adding amendments, seeding and seed saving, skills for planting a tree and more. Registration is free and required. Check out the schedule [here](#). [Register by mail](#) or email your name, school and contact information to [massaginclassroom@earthlink.net](mailto:massaginclassroom@earthlink.net).

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** – Party for the Planet Earth Day Celebration, Franklin Park Zoo, Boston, 10:00am – 3:00pm, with MassDEP Composting Workshops at 11:00 and 2:00. Opportunities to meet the zookeepers, plus animal enrichment activities, scavenger hunts, eco-friendly exhibitors and more. Visit <http://www.zoonewengland.org/fpzevents> for more information. Free with admission.

## May

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline** – Team registrations due for [Mass Envirothon](#), taking place on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Sholan Farms, Leominster. Mass Envirothon is a statewide environmental education program for high school age young people and their advisors. [Registration form](#).

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>** – International Compost Awareness Week! This is a multi-media publicity and education event that showcases composting and compost products. It features everything from composting in your backyard to large-scale commercial composting facilities and businesses serving entire communities. Sponsored by the [U.S. Composting Council](#) Visit <http://compostingcouncil.org/icaw/> for more information and ways to get involved.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – [Mass Envirothon!](#) Sholan Farms, Leominster. Mass Envirothon is a statewide environmental education program for high school age young people and their advisors. [Learn more here](#).

**May 30<sup>th</sup> Deadline** – [Green Living Project's Student Film Project](#) is encouraging students grade 6 and up to submit a unique and compelling short film about local or global sustainability-related projects. Winning films will be screened at [GLP](#) events this year, and winners will receive prize packages valued at \$500. Check out the [rules and guidelines here](#), and [submit your video here](#).

June

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** – [MassDEP](#), [U.S. EPA](#), and [RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts](#) present the [Massachusetts Commercial Food Waste Vendor Fair](#): Everything you need to divert food waste from your waste stream. Although most schools won't be subject to this ban, we encourage all food waste generators to attend this free vendor fair to connect with haulers and processors of food waste. You will also have the chance to connect with compostable product vendors you may be interested in purchasing from for cafeteria use. [Click here](#) for more information on the vendor fair, and [register here](#). Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, 9am-2pm, Free to attendees.

Enjoy the great weather!

**Sean Pontani & Stephanie Frank**  
**Green Team, Program Administrators**

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 225

Fax: (413) 586-7351

Email: [recycle@thegreenteam.org](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org)

Tel: (413) 586-7350 ext. 225

Fax: (413) 586-7350

Email: [recycle@thegreenteam.org](mailto:recycle@thegreenteam.org)

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