



*"The carbon footprint activity fit in perfectly with our Climate Change science unit. We spend some time discussing the carbon cycle and carbon reservoirs so the carbon footprint is a great activity that hits home."*  
– Becky Acheson, Teacher, Gates Elementary School, Acton

Hello GREEN TEAM Teacher!

**You have not yet registered for THE GREEN TEAM for this school year!**

[Register now](#) and fill out your [Teacher Response Form](#) so your students can receive recognition for their waste diversion, energy efficiency, and other environmental work this school year. Submit your registration and Teacher Response Form by March 31 and your students could receive prizes to reward their accomplishments!

**The next pickup day for GREEN TEAM recycling equipment from the West Roxbury location is set for Tuesday, April 5.** For schools in the eastern part of the state, submit an [equipment request](#) by **March 31** to pick up equipment from West Roxbury this spring.

The *New York Times* recently [reported on a study published in Science Magazine](#) that found most science teachers spend only an hour or two discussing climate change over the course of a whole school year. THE GREEN TEAM offers many resources and links that can help you discuss this important issue with your students.

THE GREEN TEAM [Climate Change Activities](#) and accompanying [Climate Change](#) Score Card are a great starting point. These resources provide information on climate change, actions your students can take to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and an overview of other sources of information.

The EPA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) both offer extensive climate change resources:

- The EPA Climate Change [What You Can Do: At School](#) page includes activities designed for middle and high school students as well as information for teachers and administrators.

- The NOAA [Climate Education Resources](#) page includes in-depth information on the carbon cycle, climate monitoring, and climate change impacts.

The Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) offers live assembly presentations on climate change for high schools. [Click here](#) to request a [free ACE Assembly](#). You can also watch the ACE [Our Climate Our Future video](#) and students can sign up for the ACE [Get Loud Challenge](#).

## GREEN TEAM In the Media

[Wicked Local Arlington](#) recently reported on the [Arlington EcoFest](#) that will take place at the Town Hall on Saturday March 19 from 10am-2pm. Activities at the EcoFest center around the “Are You Ready for Climate Change?” Students can submit artwork made from recyclable materials for display during the EcoFest. The town is also hosting information sessions on THE GREEN TEAM at the Robbins Library. The final info session is on March 7 from 10-11:30am. Five Arlington schools participated in THE GREEN TEAM last school year.

The [Sustainable City Network](#) posted an article about how three Massachusetts communities are receiving funding from the [EPA Clean Diesel Program](#) to help pay for new school buses that emit less pollution. Wareham received funding to replace 10 buses. Dartmouth and Swansea received funding to replace one bus each.

## GREEN TEAM Spotlight

The First Lego League’s theme this year was the “[TRASH TREK Challenge](#).” The challenge encouraged teams to design an innovative way to reduce waste. Throughout the course of the school year, THE GREEN TEAM has heard about a number of Massachusetts FLL teams as they worked on their projects. Here are a few highlights:

- The STEM Noodles from **Hadley Elementary School** designed a program to reduce waste in their cafeteria. With recycling carts from THE GREEN TEAM, the cafeteria will start diverting food scraps, recyclables, and liquids from their trash this spring!
- The Green Machines from **Hanover Center/Sylvester School** consulted with South Shore Recycling Cooperative director, Claire Galkowski, to find out why pizza boxes aren’t recyclable and what to do with them.
- The Hydrabeasts from **Westwood** designed a winter compost bin.
- The Mighty Moose from **Briggs Elementary School** in Ashburnham took a tour of Westminster's landfill and recycling center led by Westminster resident Heather Billings. When schools participating in THE GREEN TEAM ask for help with their recycling programs, Heather is also the one who provides assistance!
- The Robonauts from **RJ Grey Junior High School** in Acton will represent Massachusetts at the North American Open Championships in May. They designed a public space recycling container that uses a cell phone app to give credit to a person who recycles a water bottle.

Congratulations to the many TRASH TREK Challenge teams across the State! We encourage these inspiring inventors, engineers, and activists to keep up the good work!



*The Green Machines from Hanover Center/Sylvester School learn about pizza box recycling.*

## School Programs, Events, Competitions and Professional Development

The spring calendar is filling up with conferences, competitions, workshops, and funding opportunities!

### March 4

Deadline for the US DOE [BioenergizeME Infographic Challenge](#) for high school students.

### March 5

[Growing Minds Through Agriculture Winter Conference](#) at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer.

### March 9

Webinar: [The ABCs of School Gardens](#) from the Healthy Schools Campaign. 10:00am-11:00am EST.

### March 9

The 2016 [Massachusetts Environmental Education Society \(MEES\) Conference](#) in Worcester. The focus this year is how to communicate to a K-12 and college audience about climate change.

### March 15

Submission deadline for the [Young Reporters for the Environment Journalism Competition](#) sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Youth ages 13 to 21 are welcome to submit writing, photography, or video.

**March 22**

Application deadline for [MassCEC Learn and Earn Program](#). This program provides schools with funding to create programs that provide students with employment and training opportunities in clean energy/STEM related occupations.

**March 29**

MassRecycle's 2016 [R3 Recycling & Organics Conference & Trade Show](#) in Quincy. This is the largest annual recycling conference in Massachusetts.

**March 30**

Nomination Deadline for the [2016 Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education Awards](#). Nominate a school [here](#).

**March 31**

Submittal deadline for THE GREEN TEAM [Teacher Response Forms](#). Report your students' activities to receive recognition and prizes from THE GREEN TEAM.

**March 31**

Submittal deadline for GREEN TEAM [equipment request](#) if you want to pick up equipment in West Roxbury on April 5.

**April 5**

GREEN TEAM equipment distribution day, West Roxbury, 10:00 am. Submit an [equipment request](#) by **March 31** if you want to pick up equipment on April 5.

**April 15**

Entry deadline for the [U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize](#), which is awarded to a high school student for a water-related research project.

**April 15**

Entry deadline for the [Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#), which recognizes young people ages 8 to 18 for their work on an independent, inspired service project.

**April 15-16**

The [Massachusetts Sustainable Campuses and Communities Conference](#) at Hampshire College (in Amherst) and in Northampton.

**April 15-24**

The 10th annual [Cambridge Science Festival](#) offers 10 days of events and activities that celebrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM).

**April 21**

Free Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) training workshop, [Solutions for Green Schools in Massachusetts](#), in Maynard.

**April 22**

[Earth Day](#).

**April 28**

The [Great American Can Roundup](#) 2015-2016 School Challenge end date. Register and upload your recycling log for state and national prizes.

**May 6**

[Greening Your 21st Century School Training](#) in Manchester. Students can attend with a staff member from the school.

**May 12**

The [2016 Massachusetts Envirothon Competition](#) in Hopkinton.

**May 16-17**

The [Northeast Resource Recovery Association Conference](#) in Nashua, NH.

**Other Resources**

[Cafeteria Culture](#) is an advocacy organization based in NYC working to achieve zero-waste in school cafeterias. Their website includes educational [videos](#) such as this interesting video about [school lunch in Japan](#).

Sea Turtle Litter Sculptures made by the East Boston Team of the [Youth Conservation Corps](#) are on display at the [New England Aquarium](#) until the end of March. To participate in a litter sculpture building workshop or competition, contact DCR Park Interpreter [Matthew Nash](#).

The [Metropolitan Waterworks Museum](#) in Boston offers educational tours for K-12 classes. These tours are aligned with the Massachusetts State Curriculum Standards and help deepen students' understanding of history, science, engineering, and technology.

The [Hitchcock Center for the Environment](#) in Amherst offers [field trips](#), [in-classroom visits](#), and [lesson plans](#) on a range of topics such as ecosystems, habitats, and energy.

We look forward to receiving your [Teacher Response Form](#) and hearing about what your students have been working on this year!

**Emily Fabel**

**Green Team Program Administrator**

You are receiving this e-mail because you are part of The Green Team.

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