



MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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State Environmental Officials Present ‘Green Team’ Awards to Massachusetts Schools

MassDEP Recognizes Young Environmental Stewardship Educational Activities

BOSTON –State environmental officials today recognized students from 62 schools across the Commonwealth for outstanding environmental actions as members of the Green Team, a statewide environmental education program sponsored by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

“The Baker-Polito Administration is proud to support environmental education, bringing topics learned in the science classroom into the real world and inspiring the next generation of environmentalists,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “Congratulations to award winners who have helped make their schools more environmentally friendly through expanded recycling and energy efficiency efforts, resulting in a reduced carbon footprint.”

Students of any age can participate in the Green Team program, an initiative composed of students who share the goals of reducing pollution and protecting the environment. Nearly 60,000 students in more than 327 classes at 296 schools joined the Green Team this school year.

Students took part in a range of activities, including:

- Expanding school recycling programs;
- Collecting textiles for donation and recycling;
- Starting a compost pile using organic waste from the school cafeteria, and using the compost it generates to nourish a garden to grow vegetables;
- Making their school driveways “Idle-Free Zones;”
- Increasing energy efficiency in their schools and communities; and
- Reducing their carbon footprint at school and at home.

These activities incorporated classroom disciplines from the fields of science, engineering and mathematics to reading, writing and art, as well as other non-classroom, interrelated projects.

“We are fortunate to live in a state with many wonderful natural resources, and the students of today will be the stewards of tomorrow,” **said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg**. “Each year, we are proud to recognize those Massachusetts schools, students and teachers who



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participate in the Green Team experience, and are working to have a positive impact on our environment.”

Participating teachers received a Green Team Kit containing classroom posters, lesson plans, recycling tips and access to a library of other resources. In addition, 65 schools received recycling equipment from the Green Team to initiate or expand school recycling programs. Ten schools received signs reading “Idle-Free Zone” from the Green Team that serve as a visual reminder to drivers to turn off their engines while waiting in the schoolyard.

Participating classes were entered into a drawing for prizes, and 62 classes received prizes for their efforts (*full listing below*). Eighteen schools won grand prizes, and will receive schoolwide performances by environmental educators Jack Golden, Peter O’Malley and Earthtunes, or gift cards to local garden centers for trees or garden supplies to further “green” their schools.

Statewide, more than 2,700 students pledged to protect the environment through some or all of the following:

- Reducing, reusing or recycling;
- Walking, biking, carpooling or taking public transportation;
- Making a commitment to conserve energy and water;
- Encouraging parents and others to take an idling-reduction pledge and turn off car engines while parked or waiting;
- Tracking the trash generated in their home for one month, and subtracting the amount of trash their family eliminated via recycling; and,
- Improving school recycling or composting programs, conserving energy at school, visiting recycling facilities, meeting with municipal officials, planting school gardens, seeking alternatives to styrofoam lunch trays, building water-powered fuel cell kit cars, and creating signs, posters, videos and web pages to raise environmental awareness in their school community.

To learn more or to participate in The Green Team program next school year, teachers may sign up online [here](#).

The following are the Green Team prize winners:

| 2016-2017 Green Team Grand Prize Winners | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| School Name | Community | Grade |
| Mount Alvernia Academy | Chestnut Hill | Nursery-6 |
| East Boston Early Education Center | East Boston | K-1 |
| Monument Valley Regional Middle School | Great Barrington | 7 |
| John G. Whittier School | Haverhill | 5-7 |
| NEARI School | Holyoke | K-12 |



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| Robert F Kennedy Childrens Action Corps EWT School | Holyoke | 9-12 |
| Edward Parthum Middle School | Lawrence | 3-8 |
| Johnny Appleseed School | Leominster | 5 |
| Bartlett Community Partnership School | Lowell | Pre K-8 |
| Marion E. Zeh School | Northborough | 3-5 |
| South Shore Natural Science Center Preschool | Norwell | PreK |
| Norwood Montessori School | Norwood | Pre K-6 |
| North Pembroke Elementary School | Pembroke | K-6 |
| Sprague Elementary School | Wellesley | 5 |
| Rose L. MacDonald School | West Bridgewater | 1-3 |
| West Brookfield Elementary School | West Brookfield | 5 |
| Anne T Dunphy Elementary School | Williamsburg | 2 |
| St. Charles Elementary School | Woburn | Pre K-8 |

2016-2017 Green Team Prize Winners

| School Name | Community | Grade |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Paul P. Gates, M.D. Elementary School | Acton | 6 |
| Brackett Elementary School | Arlington | All |
| Peirce School | Arlington | 3-5 |
| Lt. Job Lane Elementary School | Bedford | 3-5 |
| Swift River Elementary School | Belchertown | 1 |
| Bellingham High School | Bellingham | 9-12 |
| Pathways Academy | Belmont | 8-11 |
| Bernardston Elementary School | Bernardston | K-3 |
| Lee Academy Pilot School | Boston | Pre K-2 |
| Bridgewater - Raynham Regional High School | Bridgewater | 9-12 |
| Andrew Peabody School | Cambridge | Junior K |
| Hawlemont Regional School | Charlemont | 5 |
| Hoosac Valley Middle and High School | Cheshire | 7-12 |
| Joseph Lee School | Dorchester | 7-8 |
| Brookside Elementary School | Dracut | 2 |
| Leroy L. Wood Elementary School | Fairhaven | K-5 |
| Fitchburg High School | Fitchburg | 9-12 |
| South Street Elementary School | Fitchburg | 2-4 |
| The Sage School | Foxboro | 3-8 |
| Hemenway Elementary School | Framingham | 5 |
| Federal Street School | Greenfield | 3-4 |
| Greenfield High School | Greenfield | 8 |
| Greenfield Math and Science Academy | Greenfield | 7 |



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| Miles River Middle School | Hamilton | 6-8 |
| Barnstable High School | Hyannis | 8-12 |
| Kingston Elementary School | Kingston | 2 |
| St. Patrick School and Education Center | Lowell | 5 |
| Stoklosa Middle School | Lowell | 5-8 |
| Greater New Bedford Vocational Tech. High School | New Bedford | 9-12 |
| Norwell Middle School | Norwell | 6-8 |
| Norwood High School | Norwood | 9-12 |
| Bishop Fenwick High School | Peabody | 9-12 |
| Captain Samuel Brown School | Peabody | K-5 |
| Rockland Senior High School | Rockland | 9-12 |
| Rockport Middle and High School | Rockport | 7-11 |
| Witchcraft Heights Elementary School | Salem | 4-5 |
| Sharon Public Schools | Sharon | K-12 |
| Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School | South Yarmouth | 8-12 |
| West Street School | Southbridge | 5 |
| Joseph G. Luther Elementary School | Swansea | 3 |
| Taunton High School | Taunton | 9-12 |
| Warwick Community School | Warwick | 5-6 |
| Loker Elementary School | Wayland | K-5 |
| John R. Fausey Elementary School | West Springfield | 2-4 |

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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