

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts & The Green Team

FISCAL YEAR 2024 OVERVIEW



Technical Assistance for Businesses & Institutions



RecyclingWorks MA is funded by MassDEP, delivered under contract by CET

The background of the slide is a collage of three images. On the left is a pile of organic waste including apples, blueberries, and banana peels. In the center is a row of books. On the right is a pile of various fabrics and clothing items.

FY24 Program Priorities

Environmental Justice
Resource Translation & Interpretation Services
Commercial Organic Waste Diversion
Waste Reduction and Reuse
Reusable Containers

Fiscal Year 2024 Overview

Waste Diversion as a Result of FY24 Hotline, Mini TA, and TA Activities

| Type of Diversion | Annual Tonnage Diverted | Percentage of Total Diversion |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Recycled | 1,202 tons | 68% |
| Reused | 74 tons | 4% |
| Reduced | 1 ton | 0.1% |
| Food Donated | 3.5 tons | 0.2% |
| Organics Diverted** | 500 tons | 28% |
| Total | 1,781 tons | 100% |

1,781 tons diverted in FY24, contributing to 325,800 tons since 2013

199 businesses received technical assistance

Roughly 1,900 phone & email hotline inquiries

Outreach and Program Awareness

9,900 Monthly newsletters subscribers
12 New Blog posts in FY24
31 Events in FY24, reaching over 4,664 people
1,345 Followers on Facebook and Twitter (X), with Instagram added for FY25
16,000+ instances of assistance
Total Website Visits - over 1 million

[View this email in your browser](#)



RecyclingWorks Newsletter | October 2024

888.254.5525 | recyclingworksma.com | info@recyclingworksma.com

Waste Fact of the Month

Most Halloween costumes can take up to 20-200 years to decompose because of the materials they are made of. ([source](#))

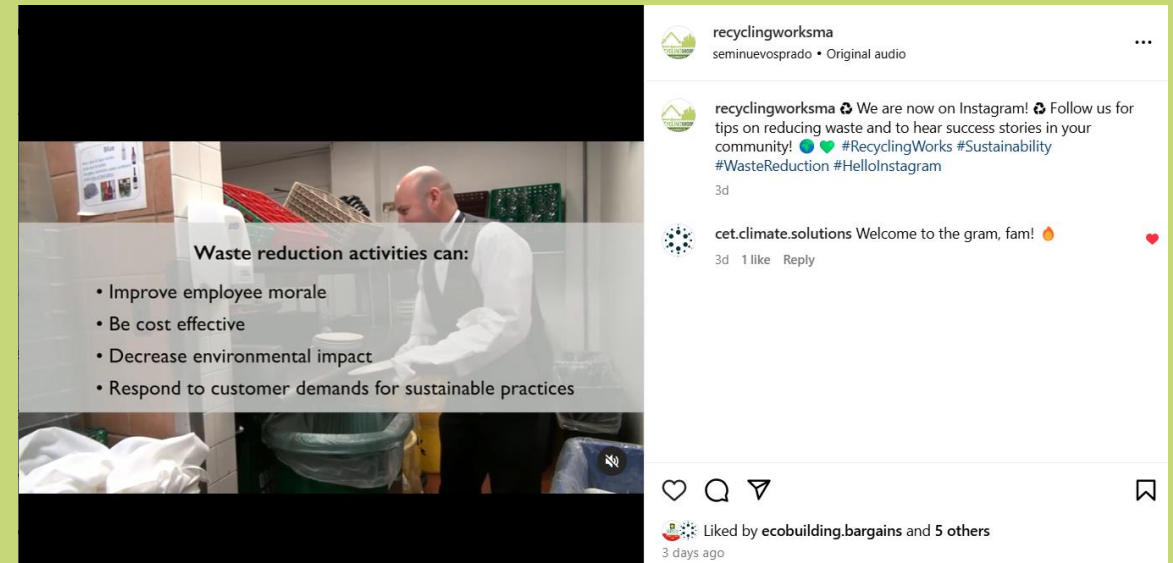
RecyclingWorks Compost Operators Workshop

There's still time to register for the [2024 RecyclingWorks Compost Site Operators Practical Skills Workshop](#) on October 10th, 2024. This no-cost workshop, conducted in collaboration with James McSweeney of Compost Technical Services and The 131° School of Composting, will focus on aerated static pile (ASP) composting of food scraps and other organic materials.

Now on Instagram!

New Instagram account added for FY25 to connect with businesses that are more active on this platform

@recyclingworksma
Follow us!



Waste Ban Awareness & Environmental Justice Communities



- Outreach to businesses servicing EJ communities, in addition to minority-owned establishments
- Outreach to identity-based groups such as the Black Economic Council of MA, BlackBoston.com and Latin American Business Organization
- Medford community partnership
- Additional community partnerships

Translation and Interpretation



¿Le gustaría recibir ayuda para reciclar en su negocio?

RecyclingWorks en Massachusetts es un programa de asistencia **gratuito** que ayuda a las empresas e instituciones con el manejo de residuos, mejoras en reciclado, donaciones y compostaje.

Comuníquese a RecyclingWorks:

888.254.5525
info@recyclingworksma.com
www.recyclingworksma.com

Kowloon Restaurante | Saugus, MA
Asistencia técnica en el sitio para el manejo de residuos



Facultad de Arte & Diseño de Massachusetts | Boston, MA
RecyclingWorks MA ayuda con señalización para la cafetería

Hacer actividades enfocadas al manejo de residuos le pueden ahorrar dinero, mejorar el ambiente laboral y brindar un mejor servicio al cliente.

Comuníquese a RecyclingWorks para obtener asistencia personalizada.

- Empezar o mejorar el reciclado
- Compostar y/o reciclar nuevos materiales
- Cumplir con las normas del estado
- Donar alimentos o materiales excedentes
- Encontrar servicios de recolección de basura y reciclado
- Proveer entrenamiento para empleados y señalamiento
- Ahorrar dinero en recolección de residuos

Llame al 888.254.5525 o
info@recyclingworksma.com
para empezar!

www.recyclingworksma.com



MassDEP
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection



RecyclingWorks en Massachusetts está financiado por MassDEP y es administrado por el Centro de EcoTecnología.

- Created a Source Separation Guidance Video with Spanish Voiceover
- Added a Spanish-language greeting for the hotline voicemail
- Produced a program overview video in Spanish for targeted social media ads
- Updated a Hospitality Recycling Training video with Spanish subtitles
- Created a program rack card in Portuguese, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Nepali, Simplified Mandarin and Traditional Mandarin
- Hotline expanded to offer live interpreter services through Lingualinx

New Business Spotlights

Blog Post

Reducing Waste One Dumping at a Time: Mei Mei's Sustainability Initiatives

Cassie Rogers May 15, 2024

Mei Mei Dumplings, located in South Boston, is setting a great example for sustainable business practices. Since opening their doors in 2012, Mei Mei has been dedicated to reducing waste and minimizing their environmental impact.



Mei Mei has always been passionate about diverting food scraps, and through a partnership with **CERO** they've implemented a comprehensive food scrap separation program. While they do use compostable materials in their front-of-house operations, Mei Mei focuses on training their back-of-house staff to prevent contamination, ensuring that their source separated kitchen food scraps are a high-quality stream. With a conveniently placed food scraps bin in the kitchen at their new location and with thorough staff training, they've made it easy for their staff to do the right thing.

Mei Mei has also teamed up with **Too Good To Go**, a wasted food prevention app, to prevent wasted surplus food. Through this partnership, they sell dumplings that may have a shorter shelf life or may not meet



Blog Post

Historic Legacy with a Bold Future: Spotlight on Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity's Sustainable Initiatives

Cassie Rogers April 2, 2024

Located on Pine Street in the heart of Florence, Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity is a vibrant hub that enriches the community and carries on the building's legacy of activism through their performance venue. Also known as the Florence Congregational Church, the historic building operates two houses of worship, a performance art space, a daycare, and a preschool.



In alignment with their commitment to innovation and caring for the future, the Executive Director of Bombyx, Cassandra Holden, enlisted support from RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) to help implement a food scrap collection program. The Reform Synagogue, Beit Ahavah, also participated as a partner in establishing the waste program. The new program is poised to divert 2.5 tons of food waste annually.

The kitchen is used for both the building's own events and as a prep space for several food trucks. Because of all these activities, it is clear why Bombyx needs a strong and efficient waste management program to support its diverse operations.

Last fall, The Bombyx Center/Florence Congressional Church responded to RecyclingWorks outreach to seek assistance with setting up food waste and cooking grease collection programs for their commercial kitchen, as well as solutions for hazardous and miscellaneous waste disposal. Their request

Blog Post

Sustainability on Campus: MIT's Decade-Long Commitment to Food and Material Waste Reduction

Cassie Rogers January 29, 2024

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is paving the way for a sustainable future with its ambitious **Climate Action Plan for the Decade** aiming to decarbonize campus operations by 2050. The heart of MIT's sustainability mission lies in its quantitative impact goals that will touch every aspect of MIT life, from energy consumption to sustainable food systems, to waste management. Let's dive into their waste reduction plan:

Reducing Campus Waste

Waste reduction is a key focus at MIT, with a goal to decrease campus trash by 30% by 2030 compared to 2019 levels. The strategy involves improving their waste tracking system, reducing single-use items, and implementing a food scrap collection program. To set this waste reduction goal, MIT was informed by data from previous waste audits, pilot programs, and waste haulers.

Food waste, comprising 40% of campus trash, is a particular target. By collecting food waste separately and reprocessing it into compost, fertilizer, or energy, MIT aims to minimize its environmental impact and contribute to a circular economy.

Tracking Progress & Staying Committed

[Link to Blog](#)

Gorton's Seafood Case Study

Written Case Study

Seafood manufacturer that implemented efficient and ocean-friendly waste reduction practices.

Methods include: reuse, food waste reduction, spent oil & wastewater recovery, film plastic and general recycling

[Link to the Case Study](#)



Gorton's Seafood Case Study

An Ocean-Friendly Approach to Waste Reduction

Compost Site Technical Assistance

Practical Skills Workshop

For Commercial Compost Site Operators
Held at Black Earth Compost in Groton on
October 10, 2024 with 30 attendees

Assisted 8 Sites in FY24

Composting food materials
Site layout and design
Operational best management practices
Pest and odor management

Spring 2024 RecyclingWorks Forum

First in-person Forum in recent years, held at UMass

Dartmouth (and virtually) on June 10, 2024

Featured Speakers and Partnerships

Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner, MassDEP

Ashley Muspratt, President & CEO, CET

Heather Billings, Sr. Waste Reduction Consultant

Alyssa Lee, Mei Mei Dumplings

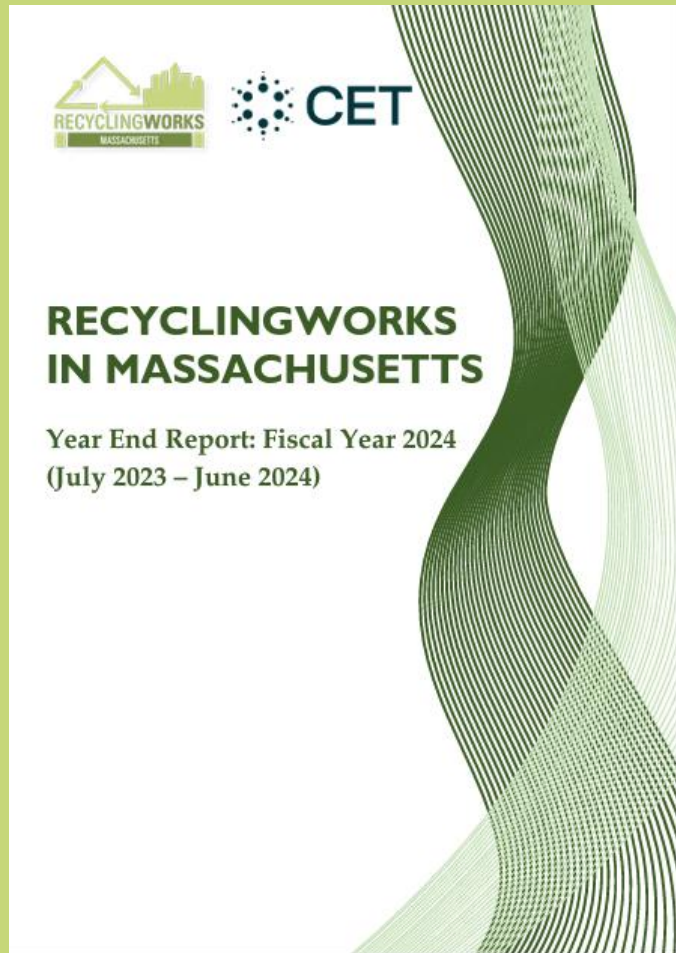
Mark Oshiro, Westin Copley Hotel

Jamie Jacquart, UMass Dartmouth

<https://recyclingworksma.com/forums/>



FY24 RecyclingWorks MA Annual Report



[Link to Report](#)



recyclingworksma.com/about-recyclingworks/

The background of the slide is a collage of three images: a variety of fresh fruits like apples, oranges, and blueberries; a row of books standing upright on a wooden surface; and a pile of folded and crumpled clothing items including a blue jacket, a red garment, and patterned fabrics.

FY25 Program Priorities

Reaching Underserved Businesses

Includes visiting EJ communities with an in-person translator to communicate with businesses in their preferred language

Excess Food Reduction & Diversion

Emphasis on source reduction and donation

Reusable Food Serviceware Best Management Practices

- For use by local health officials and food service businesses
- Enable increased use of reusable service ware
- Priority in MassDEP's Solid Waste Master Plan & Reduce & Reuse Action Plan



Reusable Food Serviceware Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Key Stakeholder meetings discussed the importance of:

- Food Safety and Code compliance
- Container selection
- Inspection and filling methods
- Collection and sanitation of used containers
- Drying and storage

3 Distinct Applications Emerged:

- The establishment provides the containers for takeout
- Consumer provides containers for beverages
- Consumer provides containers for retail



Reusable Food Serviceware Guidance

Next Steps

- Final guidance will be available soon
- Presenting on these best practices at the MHOA Annual Conference on Thursday Nov. 14
- Helping businesses establish or expand existing programs following the best practices in the report





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THE GREEN TEAM

THE GREEN TEAM is an interactive educational program that empowers students and teachers to help the environment through waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy conservation and pollution prevention. Participating classes receive certificates of recognition and are eligible to win awards.

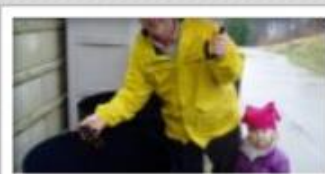
Register Now

Teachers, Sign Up for
THE GREEN TEAM
TODAY!

View Participating Schools

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Number of Participating Teachers: | 269 |
| Number of Participating Schools: | 246 |
| Number of Participating Students: | 60,096 |

[Visit our
Video Gallery!](#)[Visit our
Photo Gallery!](#)

When we all reduce, reuse and recycle as much as we can, there's very little left to throw away!



The Green Team.

An environmental program for K-12 schools in **Massachusetts**. Empower your schools with interactive environmental education resources and one-on-one support.

[GET YOUR SCHOOL INVOLVED](#)

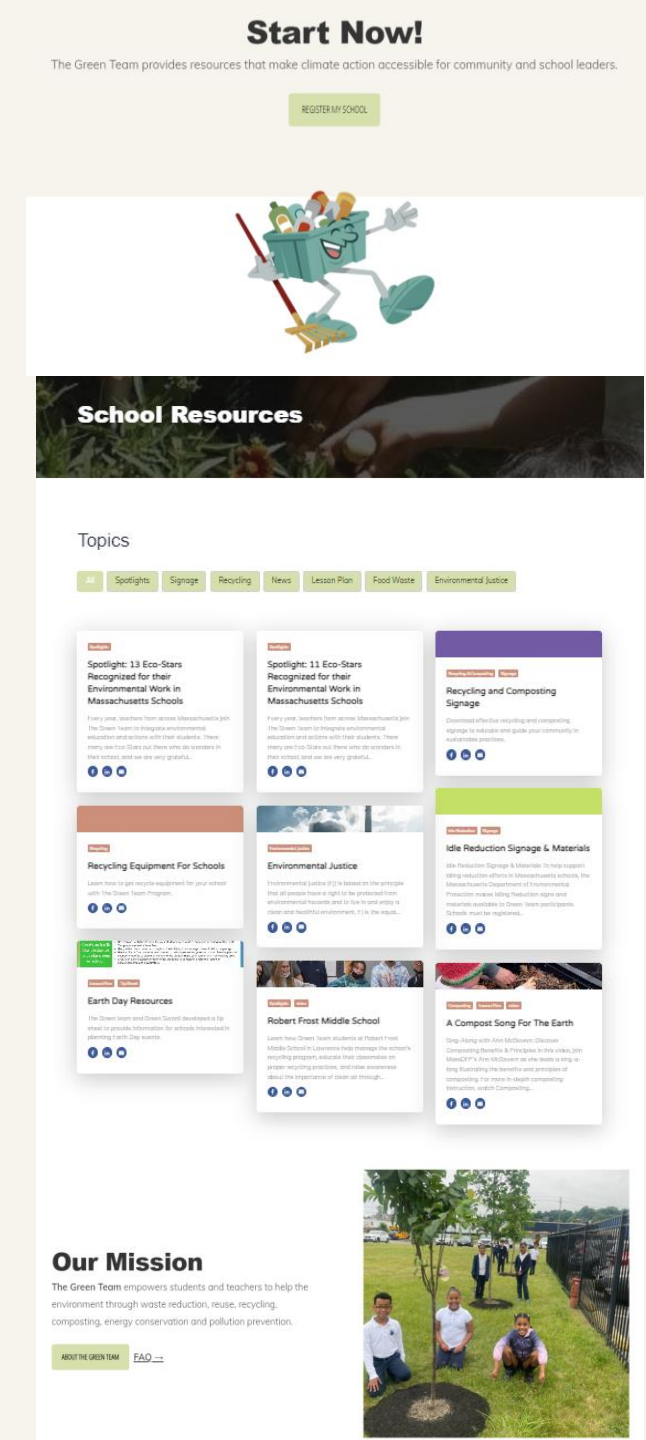
[Why it Matters](#)



Website Redesign:

- Redesign of home page
- Integrated signup forms into Salesforce for Customer Relationship Management
- Quality Control, updated and categorized existing content and database
- Optimized content resources for load time and searchability
- Update Wordpress theme and framework to current performance standards
- Newsletter integration
- Now adapts to any size screen (including mobile)

thegreenteam.org



Updated School Registration Form

[View Registration Form](#)

Register Your School

2024-2025 School Year

Teachers, principals, administrators, staff, and parent volunteers from Massachusetts K-12 schools are eligible to register.

Registrants are eligible for:

- The Green Team Kit
- Recycling Equipment
- Idling Reduction Signs And Materials.
- Certificates Of Recognition And Prizes

School Name *

Begin typing your school name. If the school does not appear, try searching by town/city. If the school does not appear, complete this form to enter a new school.

Green Team Contact Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Phone

Mobile

Title *

What best describes your role at the school? *

2023-2024 School Year Overview

359 Participating Green Teams

55,935 Participating Students

320 Participating Schools (40% located in Environmental Justice Communities)

38 Schools Received Recycling and Composting Equipment

11 Schools Received Idle Reduction Materials

“Your recycling bin program is really perfect timing for us...it feels like a gift to our school”
- School Administrator



Outreach and Events

- Monthly Newsletter: Over 4,000 subscribers
- MA Principals & Superintendents, Facilities Directors
- MassDEP Green SWORD (School Waste Reduction & Diversion) Working Group
- Safe Routes to School
- Conferences and Events:
 - MA Environmental Education Society (MEES)
 - MA Facilities Administrators Association and MA Association of School Business Officials (MAFAA-MASBO)
 - MassRecycle
 - Springfield Farm to School Summit



New School Case Study

Lawrence Family Development Charter School Case Study: Wasted Food Reduction

Founded in 1995, Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) consists of three academic buildings divided by grade level in the center of Lawrence, Massachusetts. LFDCS enrolls 800 pre-K-8th grade students and employs 58 staff members and 9 administrators. The school is dedicated to fostering a learning environment that focuses on empowerment, inclusion, social-emotional growth, and 21st Century skills. Lawrence, Massachusetts is a city of industry with a deep-rooted history in the textile mills of the mid-1800s. Lawrence is home to approximately 88,100 residents, including over 13,000 students from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Approximately 43% of Lawrence residents were born outside of the United States, over 77% speak Spanish and/or Spanish Creole in addition to English, and more than 82% identify as Hispanic and/or multiracial.



recycle@thegreenteam.org | July 2024 | www.thegreenteam.org

[View Case Study](#)

Participating Schools and Prizes

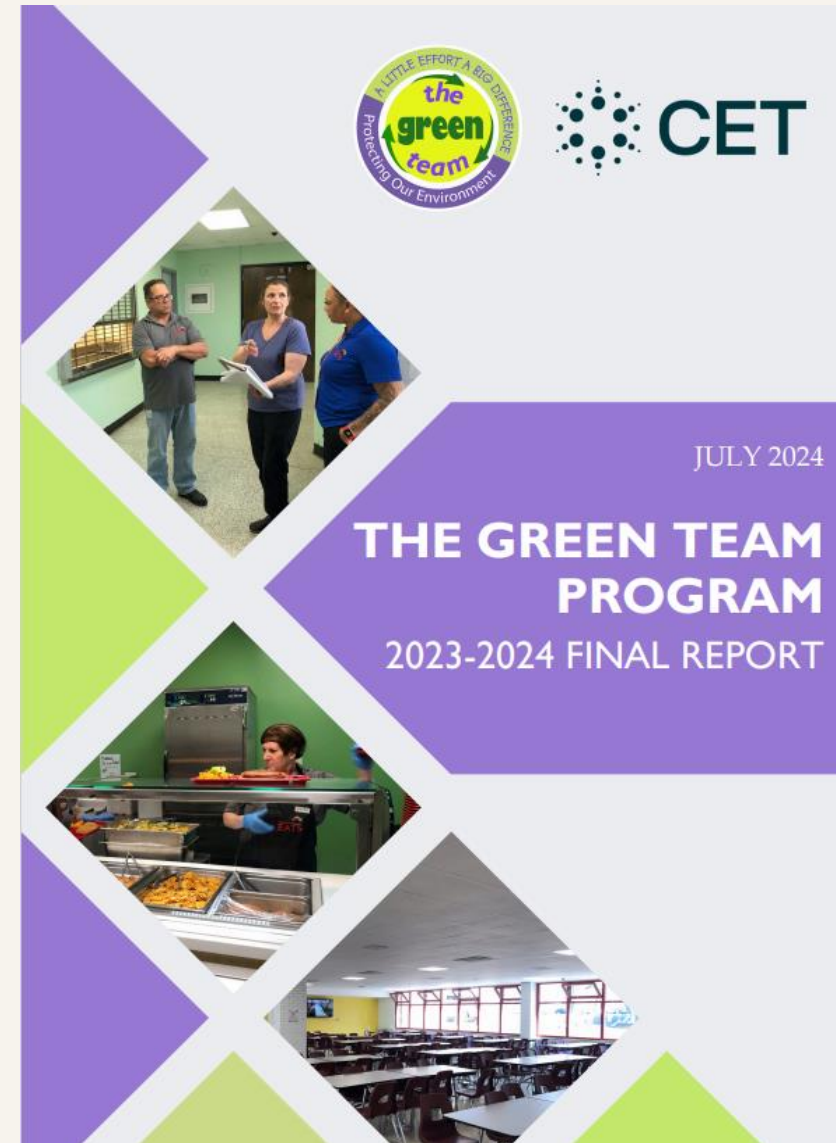
Schools share their Green Team stories at the end of the year and received prizes such as bookmarks with plantable seeds, water bottle stickers, reusable straws, bamboo utensil sets, etc.

Grand prize winners received gift cards to purchase equipment for their programs.

[Press Release from Healey-Driscoll Administration](#)



2023-2024 Green Team Annual Report



[Link to Report](#)

FY25 Green Team Program Priorities

- Technical assistance customized for school needs
- Easing the registration, application, and administrative process for Green Team Leaders
 - Current registrations exceed total for FY24
- Encourage district-wide registration and collaborative support
- Inclusivity and access to resources across the Commonwealth

THANK YOU

THE GREEN TEAM

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