

# Sustainability Initiative

## Newsletter



The NYC DOE  
Sustainability Initiative



We ♥ Earth Day!

Earth Day 2016 is fast approaching...

We will be putting together a special edition of the newsletter, highlighting Earth Week activities in the schools. Keep that in mind while planning your event, so you can get the necessary media releases for photos. Stories with at least one photo must be submitted to [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov) by **May 6** to be included.

Also, if you're celebrating Earth Day with any type of special event, let us know! Our Sustainability Team would love to join in the celebration with you and your students.

April 14, 2016

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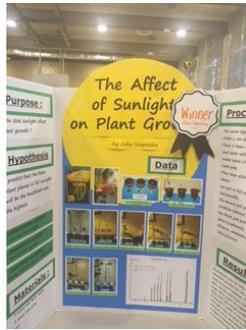
## News

### Go Green Night @ P.S. 229

Each year in celebration of Sustainability and Science, the students and staff at P.S. 229Q, the Emanuel Kaplan School come together to host a **Go Green Night**. This celebratory evening event was filled with fun games and hands-on activities, such as a planting station, where students were able to put dirt into their own pots and pick seeds of their choice.



The highlight of the event was the array of Science projects. Group and individual projects by each class were on display around the school's gymnasium for everyone to enjoy. As people entered the event, attendees were handed a score sheet in which they could vote for the best and most informative project. To keep the fair educational and interactive, there was a mixture of educational boards and games, students presented research on water, climate change, recycling and energy.



### Thoughts from a Sustainability Coordinator on CaféCu's Cafeteria Rangers Program Ms. Nessa Arnold, P.S. 32X in the Bronx

I was first introduced to the Cafeteria Rangers program when I attended the Sustainability Summit in July of last year. The presenter, Debby Lee Cohen, said that they were working on a toolkit to send out to all interested to help them with recycling in their school's cafeteria. I used the materials she provide me to create signs, sign-up sheets, and badges. I presented all of the Cafeteria Rangers materials to our Safety Committee (many of whom do lunch duty), Parent Association, Head Custodian, and some administration. Without hesitation, I was able to get them on board! We discussed and worked out some potential problems that might arise. The next morning I created four sorting stations and got the sorting ball rolling. Within minutes of standing at a station during breakfast I had students asking "What is going on?" and if they could help. They jumped right in



and made sure that breakfast was sorted correctly. Sorting during breakfast went smooth, Next was lunch, which made me a bit nervous as the crowds are bigger. During lunch, many of the School Aides asked if they could have a few of their students help at the stations. Over three lunch periods, we reduced our trash to 1/4 of a can and our recycling of metal, glass, and plastics to many bags.

Currently, my Green Team students and others who expressed interest, have been given the responsibility of monitoring the stations at breakfast. Once a month, a different class is chosen to serve as Cafeteria Rangers during their lunch period. Students are then selected for the job of either a supervisor, trash captain, recycling captain, compost captain, or tray captain. Our next step will be to have two grades per lunch period be responsible for the sorting stations. Teachers will choose the student teams for each week and their class will be responsible for that station for one month. My colleagues and I are very excited to be educating and empowering our students to make a change! We could not have gotten this far without Cafeteria Culture, the organization that created the Cafeteria Rangers program!



Breakfast bins before P.S. 32X implemented CaféCu's Cafeteria Ranger Program

*CafCu is currently rolling out our SORT 2 SAVE KIT, a free and fund to use multimedia toolkit for NYC schools - to support the NYC's zero waste goals. If you want to learn more about CafCu and watch videos of how others schools have implemented zero waste into their schools visit [www.cafeteriaculture.org/](http://www.cafeteriaculture.org/)*

## Updates

### Career Opportunities

#### DOE Office of Sustainability

##### [Zero Waste Coordinator](#)

The Office of Sustainability is seeking 2 Zero Waste Coordinators. Each will provide technical support and guidance on program implementation and operation to DOE staff including custodians, district/central headquarters staff and school administrators in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-850 and Local Law 40/41 (Recycling Law.)

#### Children's Environmental Literacy Fund (CELF)

##### [Educator](#)

CELF is seeking an Educator with 4 or more years of secondary science or contemporary issues classroom experience to join their team of professional development trainers. The part-time position will initially involve learning CELF's PD methodology (largely based in place/problem/project-based learning), co-facilitating Education for Sustainability professional development workshops and ongoing consulting projects and will progress into program design and potential for full time position. For more info contact Alan Cass - [alan@celfeducation.org](mailto:alan@celfeducation.org)

#### Sustainability Advanced Training

We understand that sustainability efforts in your school take a team of people, all working toward meaningful change. Therefore, all sustainability trainings are open to anyone in your school community that is on your green team! It doesn't matter if it's the principal, a teacher, a parent volunteer or custodial engineer. Put together a team and bring them to training to learn about the DOE's Sustainability Initiative and how to affect change with your school!

\* Save the Date\*

**Advanced Training - Friday, May 27, 2016 - [REGISTER NOW!](#)  
8am - 3pm—Lunch will be provided**

#### NYC's 2015 Drinking Water Supply & Quality Report

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to present their annual [New York City Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report](#) for the year 2015. The United States Environmental Protection Agency requires all drinking water suppliers to provide the public with an annual statement describing the sources and quality of its water supply.

DEP also offers a Free Residential Lead Testing Program that allows all New York City residents to have their tap water tested at no cost. To request a free kit to test for lead in your drinking water, call New York City's 24-hour helpline at 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov/apps/311](http://www.nyc.gov/apps/311).

## Resources

#### [Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge](#)

Students in grades 5-8 are challenged to make a short video describing a new, innovative solution that could solve an everyday problem that directly impacts the global population. Prizes include \$25,000 . Entries due **April 20, 2016**.

#### [Science Without Borders Art Challenge](#)

This year's Science Without Borders Challenge asks students ages 11-19 to enter artwork on the theme, "Fishing Under the Radar." Submissions due **by 5 p.m. April 25, 2016**.

#### [Great American Can Roundup](#)

Schools compete to recycle the most aluminum beverage cans per enrolled student between America Recycles Day (Nov. 15) and Earth Day (April 22). **Register by April 28, 2016**.

#### [Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award](#)

The National Association of Geoscience Teachers presents its Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award to K-12 educators who have made exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the earth sciences. **Nominations due May 1, 2016**.

#### [Brower Youth Awards for Environmental Leadership](#)

Honors youth leadership in conservation, preservation and restoration. Six young people in North America (age 13-22) are recognized annually with prizes including \$3,000. **Apply by May 16, 2016**.

#### [Google Science Fair Competition](#)

A global science and engineering competition open to students ages 13-18. Students may enter as individuals or in teams. Finalists will compete for internships, scholarships and prizes. **Deadline May 18, 2016**.

#### [Ocean Awareness Student Contest](#)

For Middle and high school students. This year's theme is "Making Meaning out of Ocean Pollution," and it challenges you to research and say something meaningful about the connections between human activities and the health of our oceans. **Submissions due June 13, 2016**.

#### [National Weather Association Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant](#)

The National Weather Association awards grants up to \$750 to K-12 teachers/educators to improve the education of their students, school and/or community in the science of meteorology. **Deadline June 3, 2016**.

#### [YSA Everyday Young Hero Award & Grant](#)

For students ages 5-25, who exemplifies an extraordinary commitment to service. This year, YSA will also select 12 winners to receive \$250 grants to continue and expand their project. **On going process**.

#### [Best Buy Teach@15 Awards](#)

The Teach@15 Award program helps schools serving any grades 7-12 meet their technology needs. Every 15 days, Best Buy will award three schools with Best Buy gift cards based on votes. The school with the most votes will win \$1,500, second most votes wins \$1,000 and third most votes wins \$500.

## Events



### **April 15-17 - Green Festival - times various based on date**

The national [Green Festival](#) is coming to town for an Earth Day Celebration! Throughout the weekend you will be able to explore over 250 exhibitors, learn from over 50 inspirational speakers, explore some of the nonprofits in your area, indulge in some delicious vegan or vegetarian food and learn all you need to know to live a more sustainable lifestyle!

### **April 17 - Earth Day New York 2016 - 12-7pm Union Square (North Plaza - E. 17th St. and Park Ave.)**

The [Earth Day Initiative events](#) are a fantastic way to connect to environmental campaigns, green lifestyle products, and interesting people doing great green work! We will have dozens of exhibitors, interactive displays, live performances, and kids' activities. Check out photos from past events.

### **April 21 - Brooklyn Sustainability Coordinator Gathering: Celebrating Greenpoint - 4-6pm**

Meet NWF Sustainability Coaches Fran Agnone (PS 110), Ali Schuettinger (PS 31), Fai Walker (MS 126) and Tina Wong-Hodgson (PS 34) and learn about the incredible sustainability initiatives they're working on with teacher teams, students, parents, and community members at their respective schools. [RSVP here](#) or contact [fanoe@nwf.org](mailto:fanoe@nwf.org), (646) 502-7096.

### **April 22 - Earth Day!**

#### **April 22 - Earth Day 5K Green Tour - (Participants will receive route details after registering.)**

The Earth Day Initiative will be holding its second annual Earth Day 5K Green Tour. It's a 5K with a twist as they raise money for year-round environmental education programs and participate in a walking tour of great sites in the city, such as the Lowline (the world's first underground park), the eco-friendly 1 Hotel Central Park, and a natural food cooking school. Lunch will be provided by the Natural Gourmet Institute! To register: [info@earthdayny.org](mailto:info@earthdayny.org) or 212-922-0048.

### **April 24 - Arbor Day**

#### **April 26 - Golden Apple Awards Celebration - 4:30 - 6:00pm**

Calling all **Brooklyn Sustainability Coordinators**, you're invited to the Golden Apple Awards Celebration at the Brooklyn Borough Presidents Office. See award-winning environmental projects from Brooklyn schools with exemplary programs in recycling, waste prevention, and beautification. To RSVP contact Jeff Lowell [jlowell@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:jlowell@brooklynbp.nyc.gov)

#### **April 29-30 - Bike Expo - 10am - 8pm/9am - 6pm**

The incredibly popular [Bike Expo New York](#) promotes sustainable transportation and recreation to an estimated 90,000 attendees with 100+ vendors, live-performances, free bicycle classes and more. There's truly something for everyone.

#### **April 30 - Spring Soil Health - 10am to noon**

Spring is here and it's time to prep for the upcoming growing season! Join QBG Farm staff to learn how to grow healthy plants and care for your soil. We'll discuss soil testing, cover crops, compost application, and growing season planning tips. [Register here.](#)

#### **May 4 - Bike to School Day**

Plan for your school to participate in National Bike to School Day. [Walk-biketoschool.org](http://Walk-biketoschool.org) encourages schools to register your event — you may receive incentives.

#### **May 4 - The Energy Gang Live: A Candid Take On The Clean Energy Transition - 6:30-9:30pm**

In this live episode, the gang will be joined by two prominent energy journalists — Yuliya Chernova of the Wall Street Journal and Chris Martin of Bloomberg — who will talk about the hottest stories in energy. Come listen to a lively conversation and debate with some of the top thinkers and writers in clean energy. To learn more and register [click here.](#)

#### **May 7 - I Love My Park Day**

Volunteer by pitching in to help get your favorite state park ready for the summer season. Visit the [Park & Trails website](#) for the list of parks near you and to register!

#### **May 13 -14 - 4th Annual International Young Environmentalist Youth Summit (IYEYS)**

Join over 140 young environmentalists at the IYEYS. Powered by Greening Forward, the IYEYS is a conference by the youth for the youth who aspire to start global organizations. This conference will equip students with the leadership skills necessary for them to create campaigns that will reduce waste, address climate change, advocate for green and wild spaces, and more. Want to know more? [Click here](#)

#### **May 14 - It's My Estuary Day - 9am - 4pm**

[It's My Estuary Day](#) event at Coney Island Creek at Kaiser Park in Brooklyn. You're invited to a day of service, learning and celebration! Events will include a coastal clean-up, tables representing environmental organizations, demonstrations of water chemistry techniques, oyster monitoring projects, underwater robotics, diving demonstrations, and eco-chats with scientists and much.

#### **May 25 - Manhattan Sustainability Coordinator Gathering - 4-6pm**

Join NYC Eco-Schools at The Earth School and the Fifth Street Farm to discover how students learn about sustainability through hands-on gardening and cooking programs. Coffee and snacks will be served. This event is free and open to both formal and non-formal educators. RSVP [online](#) by **May 23, 2016**

#### **June 10 - 4th Annual STEM Matters NYC Elementary Science Expo - 9:30am - 12:30pm**

Don't miss out! Science projects from elementary schools across New York City will be on display. Come share the excitement and explore science through the eyes of young scientists! Click [here](#) to **reserve a bus now** through the Office of Pupil Transportation online field trip system to bring your class to the Expo.

#### **June 26 - July 2 – Student Climate & Conservation Congress**

Students (and a limited number of faculty or staff) are invited to apply to become U.S. Green School Fellows and participate in the 2016 Sc3 Congress. Sc3 empowers outstanding high school students, entering 9th to 12th grade next fall, with the skills, knowledge and tools necessary to address climate and conservation challenges and better serve their schools and communities. [Apply here](#)

## Opportunities



### EPA now accepting applications for locally-focused EE projects

The application period for the 2016 Environmental Education (EE) Grants Program is now open! EPA is looking to support locally-focused EE projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues. Applications are due by April 8, 2016, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. To learn more and register visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

### Free Trees for Arbor Day

Grow-Out Nursery at John Bowne HS is giving away free Arbor Day trees! If you would like to order trees for your school, park, community garden or center, contact: Nancy Wolf, Arbor Day Project Coordinator (718) 834-4589 [jlnwolfnc@aol.com](mailto:jlnwolfnc@aol.com) Please submit your orders by **April 12th, 2016**.

### Botany in the Garden @ The NY Botanical Garden

Join the NYBG to learn the science behind the beautiful collections and exhibits of plants at the Garden. Connect science learning to literacy throughout the course. P-credits are available. For more info contact Judith Hutton, 718-817-8140 or [jhutton@nybg.org](mailto:jhutton@nybg.org)

Event: April 25-30 - 9:00am-4:00pm  
Registration Deadline: **April 22, 2016**

NYC Eco-Schools is partnering with [Seedles](#) to give away over 100 FREE "Classroom Superhero Kits" to teachers who want to create pollinator gardens in their schools and communities. Register [here](#) to receive your classroom's kit.

### Oysters, Alewife and Eels... Oh My! Contest

The Bronx River Alliance is looking for creative students to illustrate the cover artwork for the new Bronx River Aquatic Wildlife Monitoring How-To-Guide created by NYC Parks Natural Resources Group. Deadline **May 24, 2016**. Check out more of the Contest details [here!](#)

[Pure Food Kids](#) offers FREE food education workshops for 4th and 5th grade students in the Seattle & New York City metro areas. In the workshops, kids learn to become Food Detectives through label reading and cooking. They leave the workshop ready to make savvy food decisions for themselves and their families.

To schedule a workshop, click [here](#) or visit [www.purefoodkids.org](http://www.purefoodkids.org)

### The 4th Annual STEM Matters NYC Elementary Science Expo

On **June 10th** STEM will hold its Annual STEM matter Expo. All DOE elementary schools are invited to participate. **Schools may submit up to 4 projects**. There are three project categories: **Observational Study, Experimental Investigation, and Engineering Design Project**. To learn more about participating, visit the expo's [website](#).

### Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers

The Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers (WFIT) is a **FREE** 5-day, 4-night professional development educational program that immerses teachers in a hands-on study of New York City Watershed forestry, water quality science, and drinking water supply systems. To apply [click here](#).

Join the largest K-12 sustainability education annual event by signing up for [National Green Week 2016!](#) Green Week lasts through April 30, 2016. You can choose any week during this timeframe to be your Green Week. It's free, and the Green Education Foundation will be raffling a variety of prizes through Earth Day – so don't, wait [sign up](#) today!

### Host a Clothing and Shoe Drive



**wearable collections**  
clothing recycling

The Office of Sustainability and [Wearable Collections](#) are teaming up to bring NYC schools a citywide Spring Cleaning event for Earth Month. On top of all the eco-goodness a clothing and shoe drive brings, Wearable Collections will dedicate **10 cents per pound collected to your school**. A great cause and a great fundraiser! [Sign up](#) today!

**Introduce "Education for Sustainability" to your classroom:** On July 18-21, **CELLF** is hosting a [3-day Summer Institute](#) that will enable K-12 educators to integrate the concepts of sustainability into their existing curricula. Deadline to apply is **June 18**.

Exciting Science and STEM Summer Camps: The NYC DOE Environmental Study Center (ESC) is offering summer enrichment programs for High School students. Students will learn about gardening, animal care, cooking, art and forensics. Open to all students in the NYCDOE. Click [here](#) for more details

### Bring Bike Safety Assembly to your school!

Help students at your school enjoy cycling safely and the ropes of cycling etiquette. Bike Safety Assembly, a free program, is designed to teach students how to ride safely and confidently on bikes. It consists of a short, kid-friendly video, and an interactive quiz game with prizes; intended to teach kids that cycling is a fun and healthy activity that also has rules that kids should follow.

[Click here](#) to learn more and request an assembly!

## Trash Talk

Want a quick fix to your school's recycling better? Set up a **LIQUIDS BUCKET!**

Dumping Liquids has many benefits:

- Helps keep the cafeteria clean: no more spills or dripping bags!
- Makes storage easier: reduces leaks and smells!
- Engages students: a fun activity that supports recycling behavior!

**Set one up today!**

Hang this poster above the liquids collection bucket in the cafeteria.  
Need more? Order [here](#).

### Liquids

Pour liquids here, then recycle empty containers.

