

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

October 20, 2014

[School Spotlight](#)



While we were at Benjamin Cardozo High School presenting a \$5,000 Made By Milk contest award, the students showed off their nifty reuse projects!

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School Spotlight

**Great reuse ideas for any school!**



Students at Benjamin Cardozo High School in Queens created MGP (metal, glass, plastic) recycling bins by taping/wiring together water bottles and stuck on free DSNY recycling [labels](#). The custodians use the bins in the hallways to collect MGP! The administrators cautioned to get a clear bag from the custodian first to determine what size to make the bin. What a neat idea!!

The tables in the art classroom were in rough shape. The students sanded the tables, painted famous works of art on the surface, and added a top layer of acrylic. I think the tables look better now than when they were new!



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News

- **Sustainability Plan Submission:** Part of the Principal's Compliance Checklist, sustainability coordinators must submit their sustainability plan annually. We've changed the process this year, so check out our website for [instructions](#). Don't wait until the last minute to submit and make sure you get that point! **Deadline is October 31.**
- **Sustainability Initiative Trainings:** This year, our annual 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 the custodian. Registration has opened for advanced trainings on **November 5 and December 4!** Click for more [details](#).
- **Sustainability Poster Contest:** For the fourth year, the Sustainability Initiative is hosting an artwork contest, but we're changing it up this year! Students can create poster art with a CALL TO ACTION for sustainability initiatives within DOE schools. The topic can be anything within the realm of sustainability (energy, water, recycling, ecology, etc.), but must refer to an action that could be taken at school. Deadline for submissions is **November 21, 2014**. Check out our [website](#) for more details.



- **U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools:** This national recognition honors schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. [New York State applications](#) open today and must be submitted **by December 12**. If you are interested in applying for this honor, we may be able to help you through the application process. [Email us](#) if you're interested in the additional assistance or to let us know if you've turned in an application.
- **Recycling Education Center (REC) Opens in Brooklyn:** In 2013, Sims Municipal Recycling opened a state-of-the-art Material Recovery Facility in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The facility can process 100% of the metal, glass, and plastic collected in New York City, with the capacity to process 1,000 tons of material a day. See how NYC recyclables are sorted at the facility in this [video](#). In September, Sims opened the [REC](#) for schoolchildren and other organizations. While developed with third to eighth graders in mind, people of all ages can enjoy the REC with its colorful, interactive, hands-on exhibits and activities that show how materials are processed for recycling, and turned into new products. [Schedule a visit!](#)

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## Events

- **October 24:** The NYC Department of Environmental Protection is pleased to announce performances for school groups of **City that Drinks the Mountain Sky**, an epic story of the New York City water supply system as told through masks and puppet theater with live music. Performances will take place at the Borough of Manhattan Community College Tribeca Performing Arts Center in Manhattan on Friday, October 24 at 10:15am and noon. Program information and educator's study guide for Educators are available on their [website](#).



**October 24:** Help the Big Apple Crunch break their world record of 1,000,000 crunches from last year's event! SchoolFood will be ordering apples for all DOE schools. Register your school on the Big Apple [School Crunch](#) page so we can count your crunches in the world record! Spread the word and check out BAC's [classroom resources](#)!

- **November 5 and December 4:** Sustainability Initiative Advanced Trainings. Learn more and register [here](#).
- **November 18:** Environmental Education Advisory Council's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The EEAC provides a network and forum for all committed to environmental education to grow professionally and to share ideas and information. Come celebrate the past 40 years of environmental education in NYC. The Celebration will be at Brooklyn Brewery, 79 N 11th St, New York, NY 11249 from 7:30-10:30pm. [RSVP](#) and bring your friends!
- **Save the Date!** March 1-2, 2015: The [International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit](#) is coming to NYC. For ages 5 to 25, the summit empowers youth to take what they know and put it into action.

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## Opportunities

- **Solar 1 Green Design Lab Energy Challenge:** The Energy Challenge is a four-month-long (November 1 to February 28) competition that challenges schools to decrease electricity consumption and raise awareness through a school-wide energy reduction and awareness campaign. Last year's challenge had students, teachers and custodial staff in 77 schools across all 5 boroughs competing for \$25,000 in prize money. All schools in the [Green Design Lab](#) Sustainable Schools Network are eligible to participate for FREE and [must register by October 24](#).
- **GSA Green Cup Energy Challenge:** Running from November 4 to December 2, the Green Schools Alliance [Green Cup Energy Challenge](#) is an opportunity for students, teachers, and staff to discover they have the power to save energy in their schools. Top schools can share in over \$100,000 in cash prizes!! [Register by October 27](#).
- **School Wellness Council Grant Program:** Convening a [School Wellness Council \(SWC\)](#) ensures you have an active team to consider quality Physical Education and Health Education in your school, along with other programs to promote healthy habits among students, families, and staff. If your school did not participate in the 2013-2014 School Wellness Council grant program, [click here](#) to apply for \$2,500, as well as receive technical assistance, networking opportunities and recognition. **Deadline October 31**.
- **Fall 2014 Trailblazing Teacher awards** by the Center for Green Schools: The Center is looking for national leaders that bring sustainability education to students through in-classroom activities, extracurricular projects, field trips, or their own creative mix. Top teachers get a place on the map of experts, a \$250 gift card to help out in their work, a free registration for the Green Classroom Professional Certificate program, and unique opportunities leading up to the Green Apple Day of Service. Nominate yourself or a favorite teacher by **October 31 at 6:00pm** (EST)!
- **Grow to Learn NYC School Garden Program** is accepting applications for [mini-grants](#) of \$500-2,000 to start or enhance a learning garden program at NYC public & charter schools. To apply, schools must [register](#) the garden and submit the [mini-grant application](#) by **November 3**. Need help with the application? Attend a grant-writing

and garden planning workshop on Tuesday Oct. 21 or Monday Oct. 27.

- **“Nature Works Everywhere” garden grants from The Nature Conservancy:** This grant opportunity is being offered in order to support the creation of ten [Nature Works Everywhere](#) gardens in NYC in school programs that will target grades 5-9. The grant package offers: \$2,000 to be spent on garden materials, up to \$500 in garden materials to be distributed at workshops, site visits, and meet ups, educational workshops, coaching and support, access to standards-based curriculum and teaching materials, A *Nature Works Everywhere* "Nature in a Box" kit, including a tablet, and a \$500 educator stipend. All proposals and questions must be submitted to [natureworks@tnc.org](mailto:natureworks@tnc.org). Learn more and download application [HERE](#). Proposals for this grant are due on **November 14 by 5:00pm**.
- The Fall 2014 [Made By Milk](#) contest is underway! Deadline for submission is **November 19** so check out the website for exciting changes to the contest. Benjamin Cardozo High School won the national prize of \$5,000 last year. You could be that school this year!
- **\$4,000 Green Flag Grants for 5 NYC Eco-Schools!** NYC Eco-Schools is offering \$4,000 grant awards to the first five NYC Eco-Schools that achieve Eco-Schools USA’s Green Flag during the 2014-15 school year! Please review the [Green Flag award criteria](#). Applications must be completed no later than March 20, 2015. Winning schools will be required to submit a one-page narrative and budget, explaining how they’ll use their funds. Monies must be spent by Friday, April 3, 2015 and used for a school sustainability initiative. Questions contact [fanoe@nwf.org](mailto:fanoe@nwf.org) or (646) 502-7096.
- **Professional Development Opportunities:**
  - [Environmental Study Center](#): has too many opportunities to list here, so sign up for their newsletter by emailing [ESC@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ESC@schools.nyc.gov).
  - [Solar One Green Design Lab](#): Free STEM Education Training for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. November 4, 9:00am-3:30pm the Urban Future Lab, 15 MetroTech Center, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brooklyn (Lunch provided). Teachers are introduced to Solar One's Green Design Lab and Clean Tech curricula which explore sustainability and STEM through close study of five areas: Energy, Air, Water, Food, and Materials. The lessons, filled with hands-on activities, use the school building as both a learning laboratory and tool for environmental change. [Registration](#) deadline October 31.
  - [Materials for the Arts](#): “Props, Costumes and Set Design for Oral Presentations across the Curriculum” - This course is designed to enhance oral presentations in the classroom through the use of project-based learning to create props, costumes and set designs made from reusable materials that link to literacy, math, science and social studies. November 1, 8, 15, 22, and December 6, 13. Saturdays, 9:30am – 5:00pm.
  - [Edible Schoolyard NYC](#): Click on the link for more details and to register.
    - **Teaching in the Urban School Garden** - October 23, 4:00-6:00pm. Your students can enjoy hands-on, garden-based lessons even in very limited space. Come see some of Edible Schoolyard NYC's favorite teaching activities in small beds and planters.
    - **Going Seed to Table in the Fall Garden and Kitchen Classroom** - November 4, 9:00am-3:00pm. An overview course about incorporating elements of gardening and cooking into your classroom to teach your students how their food ends up on their plates, including sessions on how to care for a school garden in the fall, demonstration lessons in the garden and in the kitchen, and opportunities for participants to network and create teaching activities of their own.
- Sign up to receive [NYC Audubon’s Look Around New York City](#) publication for children in grades 3-6. Look Around has been published for almost 25 years by a volunteer team of writers, artists, and editors. It features articles by professionals as well as kids. There are fun facts, mini-quizzes, interviews, and ideas for adults about

city-based nature activities for children. Click [here to sign up](#) to have the publications mailed to your school!

- Other National Contests and Awards:
  - [Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy](#) – Deadline October 31
  - [Gee Whiz Kids Award for Community Service](#) – Deadline October 31
  - [Future City Competition](#) – Deadline October 31
  - [Get to Know Contest](#) – Deadline November 1
  - [Prudential Spirit of Community Youth Awards](#) – Deadline November 4
  - [International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest](#) – Deadline November 15
  - [Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Art Contest](#) – Deadline November 14
  - [National Science Teachers Association Awards](#) – Multiple deadlines (most are November 30)
  - [Real World Design Challenge](#) – Teams register by December 1
  - [Beneath the Waves Youth Making Ripples Film Competition](#) – Deadline December 5
  - [Lexus Eco Challenge](#) – Deadline December 8
  - [NSTA-Shell Science Lab Challenge](#) – Deadline December 19
  - [Ocean Pals Poster Contest](#) – Deadline December 22

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## Resources

- [NYS Assoc. for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling Green School Grant](#) – up to \$500. **Deadline October 31**
- [Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant](#) – up to \$2,000. **Deadline October 31**
- [American Honda Foundation Grants \(K-12\)](#)—up to \$75,000. **Deadline November 1**
- [Connecting Math to Other Subjects - Grants for High School Teachers](#) – Apply by November 7
- [N-Vision a Brighter Future Grant](#) – Deadline November 14
- [Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants](#) – Deadline November 17
- [National Gardening Association's 2015 Youth Garden Grant](#) – Deadline December 5
- [New York Restoration Project's Gardens for the City](#) – For assistance with revitalizing public spaces
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for the cost of shipping and handling
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)— up to \$1,000. Rolling deadlines
- [Build It Green!NYC](#) - two non-profit reuse centers filled with low-cost salvaged building materials
- [The Pollination Project](#) – up to \$1,000. Rolling applications
- [The World We Want Foundation](#) - \$500 - 5,000. Supports youth making positive social change

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## Partner Spotlight



### [Sustainability Lesson Clearinghouse](#)

The Green Education Foundation hosts a clearinghouse with hundreds of free lesson plans for all grade levels. Find the right lesson, activity or audit for your students by searching by grade level and subject area.

### [Online Professional Development for Educators](#)

Visit their website to find online, sustainability-focused professional development courses. Earn a certificate or simply take a course for academic or professional development credits.

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## Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

Submissions for Newsletter/Spotlights: [sjaye@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sjaye@schools.nyc.gov)

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Website: [schools.nyc.gov/sustainability](https://schools.nyc.gov/sustainability)

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