

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

September 9, 2014

[Coordinator Spotlight](#)

Instead of highlighting one particular school, we're shining the spotlight on three incredible award-winning sustainability coordinators; Nathaniel Wight, Vicki Sando, and Daniel Steiner.



[Partner Spotlight](#)

The Department of Sanitation not only picks up our waste, but provides all kinds of free stuff and resources to improve your recycling and organics collection programs.

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Sustainability Coordinator Spotlight

As recognition of the great work being done in NYC schools by sustainability coordinators, various organizations have awarded these sustainability coordinators' efforts for the 2014 year. The NYC Department of Education is extremely proud of these three individuals and all the other sustainability coordinators working to bring green curriculum to the classroom!



Nathaniel Wight, a teacher at Bronx Design and Construction Academy, was awarded the [Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](#) (PIAEE). The White House Council on Environmental Quality, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recognizes "outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students." Nathaniel was selected based on the work done with students including a green roof, lessons on food production and urban ecosystems, Urban Heat Island Effect and working with architectural students on sustainable

building designs.



Vicki Sando, teacher at P.S. 41 in Manhattan, was named a [Trailblazing Teacher by the Center for Green Schools](#), one of only six teachers nationwide to be honored for her creativity in bringing sustainability education to the classroom. As part of the reward, Ms. Sando will receive tools to further support her mission of teaching sustainability to her students.



Daniel Steiner, a teacher at the Bronx Theatre High School, received the [Bronx Council for Environmental Quality](#) (BCEQ) “Keeping it Reel” Formal Environmental Educator Award, as nominated by his Principal, Charles Gallo. The BCEQ is a non-profit dedicated to leaving the Bronx with “better air, land, and water quality than we have at present.” As part of that goal, the organization works with schools to educate students on the importance of environmental issues facing their community.

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Sustainability Initiative Updates

- **NEW Sustainability Coordinator designation process:** This year’s Sustainability Coordinator designation deadline is September 30, 2014. Tell your principal about the [new process](#).
- **Sustainability plan submission** process will roll out September 15, 2014. Deadline for submission is October 31, 2014.
- **Organics Collection Program is expanding:** The DOE will be adding more than 400 schools to the program in October. To see if you’re one of those schools, check out the [expansion list](#). Free resources, such as posters, labels, [NEW training videos](#), and tip sheets, are available on DSNY’s [website](#).
- **We’ve updated our website!** The site has been redesigned to make it easier to find information that pertains specifically to you! If you have suggestions for things you’d like to see on the website, let us know. Check it out at schools.nyc.gov/sustainability.
- **How-To Guides:** The Sustainability Initiative is happy to announce the release of the new “Guide to Solar on Existing School Buildings.” And check out the “Guide to Green Roofs” released last year.
- **Sustainability Initiative Trainings:** We understand that sustainability efforts in your school take a team of people, all working toward meaningful change. So this year, we are opening the annual trainings up 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. If they are interested in learning about the DOE’s sustainability initiative and how to affect change, they are welcome! So save the dates: Basic training is October 14th and advanced trainings are November 6th and 18th, with more training dates and options available later in the year. **Registration for training will not open until late September.**
- **Energy Conservation Calendar 2014-2015:** Now available for [download!](#)
- **Newsletter Subscriptions:** If you are a sustainability coordinator, the subscription list for this newsletter will change at the end of September once principal SC designation is complete. Sustainability coordinators for 2014-2015 will automatically receive this newsletter. If you are no longer the coordinator, but would like to continue to receive this newsletter, you must email sustainability@schools.nyc.gov to remain on the list.
- **New 2014-2015 Planner!** We’ve put together a planner for the school year that highlights special sustainability days in our year (like trainings or contest deadlines) and interesting national events. Check it out!
- **SDI Catalog updates:** DSF has updated the latest edition of the Custodian Engineers’ SDI Catalog to include several options for recycling bins. There is a new [“Recycling, Organics, and Waste”](#) section on pages 162-169. These bins have been tested in schools for cost, effectiveness and durability, and guidelines for using the bins

are also available online. Thank you to [Recycling Champions](#) for all their hard work testing the bins and providing the information for the catalog!

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News

- NY1 produced a “How NYC Works” segment on the city’s paper recycling program. If you wanted to see where the paper goes after you put it in the paper bin, check out [this video](#) and show it in your classroom!
- The **2013 Annual Water Supply and Quality Report** is now available at www.nyc.gov/dep/2013waterquality. This report contains important information about your water supply and the quality of your drinking water, including a summary of water quality test results. For more information about the New York City Water Supply and to view previous years’ reports, go to www.nyc.gov/dep.
- National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA created a [great video](#) on the Manhattan iSchool and their Green Flag Award experience last year. Kudos to teacher Peter Mulroy and his students! If you’re interested in participating in the Eco-Schools program, contact [Emily Fano](#).

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Events

- **September 16:** [Student Advocacy Day for the Environment @ City Hall](#) from 9:00am – 12:00pm. New York City Council's Sanitation Committee will be meeting at the end of the month to hear testimony on the plastic bag ban bill. The bill must pass this committee with at least 3 out of five votes in order to move on to be voted on by the full City Council. Join the rally at city hall and meet with city council members. Click on the link for more info and to register to attend.
- **Peoples Climate March:** To coincide with the United Nations Climate Summit during [Climate Week](#), on **September 21, 2014** thousands of people will be marching in NYC and cities around the world demanding that our leaders take action on climate change. The organizers of the climate march have been proactive in creating programs and teacher toolkits so that our teachers and sustainability coordinators can engage our students in meaningful discussion about climate change and how they can participate in this historic event. Check out all the ways you can get involved at PeoplesClimate.org/schools or contact [Kate](#) for more info.
 - **Parents and Students** can [sign up to be a School Captain](#) to get the word out at your school. The school with the most #selfies at the climate march will **win a \$5,000 Sustainability Grant** for their school! Teachers and school administration can sign up to be a School Captain too!
 - **Teachers:** Download the [Teacher’s Toolkit](#)! The toolkit includes sample lesson plans, a parent flyer, and info about the School Contest.
 - **Free Color Flyers for Your School:** If you need color flyers delivered to your school for free, please fill out this [request form](#) by midnight September 10.
 - [Youth Event before the March!](#) Saturday, September 20 at MLK Campus at 122 Amsterdam Ave.
- **September 27:** The National Green Apply Day of Service gives parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform all schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects. As a teacher, **hosting a service project will allow you to earn your**

[Green Classroom Professional Certificate](#). Last year, more than 2,000 communities in 40 countries and all 50 states took part in sending a message to the world that where our children learn matters. Check out [project ideas](#), read last year's [highlights](#) and register your [2014 project](#) today!

- **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 10:15 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! Check out [crunch locations](#), spread the word, and get your apples.

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Opportunities

- The Captain Planet Foundation is hosting a "Learning Garden Grant Contest" just for NYC schools in partnership with Key Food and Dole Foods. The contest will award **2 New York City Elementary Schools (grades K - 5)** that want a school garden or want to enhance an existing school garden. Eligible schools (see official rules [here](#)) are invited to enter the challenge for a chance to win **the Grand Prize- a one-year supply of Dole Fruit Bowls AND a Learning Garden from CPF**. (CPF Learning Gardens include garden installation (or expansion of existing garden), a mobile cooking cart for taste tests, standards-based Learning Garden lessons, lesson supply kits, and teacher training.) To enter the challenge, applicants must complete an [application](#). **Entry deadline is September 22, 2014** at 11:59PM EST.
- **U.S.-Taiwan Sustainable Schools Program for 5 NYC Eco-Schools:** The National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools program is looking for 5 schools to participate in the [U.S.-Taiwan Sustainable Schools program](#) in 2014-15! The program is a partnership between the U.S. EPA, EPA Taiwan, and NWF Eco-Schools. Your school will be paired with a sister school in Taiwan to collaborate on sustainability projects. Email fanoen@nwf.org for more information. **Apply by September 30, 2014.**
- **\$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 fanoen@nwf.org or (646) 502-7096
- **\$500 Recycling Grants for 10 NYC Eco-Schools!** Jumpstart a recycling and/or waste reduction program at your school with a \$500 grant from the Wrigley Company Foundation. Participating schools will be eligible for an Eco-Schools award. Request an application: fanoen@nwf.org or (646) 502-7096.
- 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!
- The [World Maker Faire](#) is coming to NYC September 20-21. They need volunteers help to keep Maker Faire sustainable! Join the Green Travelers team to greet and teach New Yorkers how to recycle, compost, and reclaim resources at the recycling stations throughout the festival. All training is provided, and the free stuff

you get for volunteering is awesome! Sign up to volunteer at <https://greentravelernyc2014.eventbrite.com>.

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Resources

- [Project Learning Tree GreenWorks!](#) - \$1,000-2,000. Three types of grant opportunities. Deadline September 30.
- New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling [Green School Grant](#) program - program provides up to **\$500 per school** to rejuvenate existing programs or to develop new programs centered around the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle). Awards will be made twice yearly; this is a competitive grant so imagination, ingenuity and initiative are valued. Deadline for applications is October 31.
- [American Honda Foundation Grants \(K-12\)](#)—up to \$75,000. Deadline November 1.
- [City Parks Foundation Capacity Fund Grants](#) – up to \$5,000. Deadlines October 1.
- [NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants](#)—up to \$5,000. Deadlines October 15.
- [Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant 2015](#) – \$500. Deadline October 15.
- [New York Restoration Project's Gardens for the City](#) – Application for assistance with revitalizing public spaces. Rolling deadlines.
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for your school garden for the cost of shipping and handling only.
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)—\$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 Young Global Citizens making positive social change. Rolling applications.

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Partner Spotlight



The Department of Sanitation not only picks up our waste, but provides all kinds of free stuff and resources to improve your recycling and organics collection programs through the [Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling](#). Here are just a few of the numerous services and resources that DSNY provides:

- Order [free materials](#) to set up your school recycling program, and to educate students, teachers, and parents
- Check out the NYC teachers' [RRResource](#) curriculum guide
- Order [coloring and comic books](#)
- Request a recycling specialist [walk-through](#)
- Check out available field trips and tours to [recycling facilities](#) in NYC
- Use the [numerous videos](#) on their website to educate in the classroom
- Show off your school's recycling programs through the [Golden Apple Awards!](#)
- Get training and supplies to [compost](#) in the classroom
- Check out the student activities on the [Fun Page](#)

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Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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Website: schools.nyc.gov/sustainability
