

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

September 3, 2014

Welcome back to school! This is a shortened version of our regular newsletter to give you the highlights of what's to come in the next few months with new initiatives, processes, and opportunities. We look forward to working with you this year to make your schools more sustainable!

- **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.
- **New Sustainability Coordinator designation and plan process:** The new process will be unveiled on Monday, September 8 through P-weekly, Charter Schools weekly, our regular newsletter, and the website. This year's Sustainability Coordinator designation deadline is September 30, 2014 and the sustainability plan submission deadline is October 31, 2014. The updated process will be posted [on the website](#) on Monday.
- **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](#).
- **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.
- **Advisory Council:** Thank you to those that submitted their names for the Sustainability Initiative Advisory Council. Notification emails will go out by the end of September.
- **Special Opportunity for schools in Bronx Community District 1:** Would you like to have trees planted in or around your school? If so, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) would like to connect with you. NYRP is preparing a proposal to plant and care for trees over the next three years. Contingent on the funding of the proposal, NYRP may be able to provide design, site preparation/installation and two years of tree care for your school. Your school would eventually provide approvals of the principal, custodian, and DDF; as well as a plan on how students or community members will be engaged. If you want to be included in the proposal, please email Filomena Riganti, friganti@nyrp.org or 212.333.2552, **by Friday, September 5th** if you are interested.
- **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

- **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 Flyers for distribution:** If you need color flyers delivered to your school for free, please fill out this [request form](#).
- **Green Apple Day of Service is September 27!** This national event 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. Check out [project ideas](#), read last year's [highlights](#) and register your [2014 project](#) today!

Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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Website: schools.nyc.gov/sustainability
