

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

June 1, 2015

### School Spotlight



Mr. Eco flew into Queens to give the students at P.S.40 an Eco Hero Experience!

### Partner Spotlight



Materials for the Arts offers programming focused on creative reuse: making art with readily available materials.

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## School Spotlight

### Mr. Eco Flies into P.S. 40



May 12 was an exciting day at P.S. 40 Samuel Huntington School in Jamaica, Queens. Mr. Eco flew in to give students the 'Eco Hero Experience'. Mr. Eco is an environmental rap superhero, who believes that monumental changes begin with the youngest members of society. "The entire experience was engaging" said Robin Picarello, P.S.40's Sustainability Coordinator, "the students really liked it; they listened and joined in with the songs."

Mr. Eco uses rap as a vehicle to educate young children about sustainability, wildlife conservation, and how their local actions impact ecosystems globally. At the end of the assembly, Mr. Eco had each child in attendance take the EcoHero pledge "The ecosystems and animals I love will not be saved unless heroes emerge. I am that hero. The world is in my hands. From this day forward, I am an EcoHero!"

If you would like your school to be highlighted in the School Spotlight, email [nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov)!

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## News

- **Applications for the Sustainability Excellence Awards are due on Friday, June 5!** Awards will be given to recognize excellence in environmental leadership and contributions to the DOE's sustainability initiative goals. Any person or team can apply for **Outstanding person** (*Sustainability Coordinator, Facility Staff, Principal*), **Green Team** or **School Event**. You may submit entries in more than one category. Read the [eligibility guidelines and rules](#) and then use the online [Application form](#) to apply, deadline is **this Friday!**
- **Dr. Sharon Jaye is leaving the DOE!**

After two wonderful years as the Director of Sustainability for the DOE, Sharon is moving on. She will be joining the Green School Alliance (GSA) as their Executive Director. In this new role, she will advocate for the green schools movement on both a national and international scale, and continue to work with the DOE to continue its efforts to embed sustainability into its culture. As the Director of Sustainability, she has been a catalyst in bringing sustainability to the forefront at the DOE. She has worked diligently to develop collaboration and creating internal support systems for all schools to be able to achieve their sustainability goals. Friday, June 19, will be Sharon's last day at the DOE. Please join us in wishing [Sharon](#) well and best of luck on her new journey!
- **June 1 Webinar has been rescheduled!** The webinar on sustainability coordinator basics has been rescheduled for June 11. If you are a first-time coordinator or need more clarification on your role and responsibilities, this is the webinar to attend! Click to register: [Sustainability Initiative Basics](#)
- **Sustainability Coordinators:** Fill out the annual survey **by June 12!** You should have received an email last week with the survey link for the annual sustainability survey. If you did not, please email us at [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov) and we'll send you the link. You can also help your principal designate your school's 2014-2015 Sustainability Coordinator! We opened the form early so you can take advantage of professional development over the next few months. Talk with your principal about doing this soon!
- **School Spotlight Special**

The Sustainability Initiative is putting together a special 'End of the Year' special edition newsletter. With over 1,600 Sustainability Coordinators, every event, activity, special student, and green team doesn't always get the chance to be highlighted in the newsletter. If you'd like to be included in this special edition, please email [Nichelle Hudlin](#) by **June 3** (submissions for the special Earth Day edition will be included in this special).
- **Get Free Posters from the Sustainability Initiative!**

Schools can order FREE posters created from the winners of the student artwork contest! Quantities are limited so place your order by filling out [this form](#) as soon as possible. Many thanks to all who submitted their artwork and congratulations to the nine winners! View [Winners artwork slideshow](#)
- **World Environment Day**

[World Environment Day 2015](#) (WED), an annual event celebrated each June 5, is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. The WED theme this year is "*Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.*" Any activity your school did this semester that celebrates the environment can be shared with the rest of the world so you can continue to inspire others! [Register](#) your activity and it will be featured on the Wide World of WED!

Started in 1972, WED has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political attention and action. Through WED, the U.N. Environment Program is able to personalize environmental issues and enable everyone to

realize not only their responsibility, but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development.

- **Carton 2 Garden**

The Carton 2 Garden Contest, allows students to tap into their environmental creativity by re-purposing milk and juice cartons from their school cafeteria to either build or enhance their school's garden. This year there were some innovative submissions, check out the winning creations at [carton2garden.com](http://carton2garden.com) and keep an eye out for the 2016 contest!

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## Events

- **June 10, 9:30am - 1:30pm** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual [STEM Matters NYC Elementary Science Expo](#). The Expo will have projects from elementary schools across New York City that exemplifies student interest, curiosity and a desire to explore the mysteries of the world.
- **June 11, 11:30 - 12:30pm** – Webinar – Click to register: [Sustainability Initiative Basics](#)
- **June 11, 4:00pm – 6:00pm** -- Join NYC Eco-Schools for a Bronx Sustainability Coordinator Gathering at DeWitt Clinton H.S., 100 West Mosholu Parkway, Bronx, NY. Learn how to integrate sustainability into your curriculum, tour DeWitt Clinton's certified Schoolyard Habitat and a productive produce garden. Come and mingle with like-minded peers and get inspired. [RSVP](#) by Tuesday, June 8.
- **June 11, 6:30pm** - Join Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation's Executive Director, Katie Ginsberg, for a panel discussion following the screening of [Project Wild Thing](#), a free event at the Ossining Library's Budarz Theatre.
- **June 12 – Deadline for the Sustainability Coordinator annual sustainability survey**
- **June 19, 12:00 – 1:00pm** – We invite you to participate in [The Daylight Hour 2015](#). Help us raise awareness about this important issue by turning off all lights in your classroom, facility and home for a single hour. If you're able to participate, please do and send us your pictures.
- **June 21 - 27 – [Student Climate & Conservation Congress](#)** - Applications Due **NOW!** Students (and a limited number of faculty or staff) are invited to apply to become U.S. Green School Fellows and participate in the 2015 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.
- **June 28 – July 3 - [Educator Climate & Conservation Colloquium](#)** – Applications Due **NOW!** EC3 is a NEW week-long professional development opportunity and certification program for school sustainability coordinators. Held at USFWS' National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. *If you're interested in attending, contact [Nichelle Hudlin](#) for discount code, financial aid is also available.*
- **July 24** – The first annual [DOE Sustainability Summit](#) will be held in the Bronx, NY. The summit will be a forum, discussion, instructional and networking place for Sustainability Coordinators, Administrators, Teachers, Custodian Engineers and school green team members. This one day event includes lunch and it's **FREE!** Submit a [workshop](#) idea, [sign up to exhibit](#), or [register now!](#)

## Opportunities

- **Introduce “Education for Sustainability” to your classroom:** On **July 20-23**, CELF 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 1.**
- **Have any summer plans yet?** [Sustainable Summer](#), a Brooklyn-based environmental education non-profit, has several summer programs available to NYC teens with an interest in environmental sustainability. Please pass along this information to your student green teams!
- **Exciting Science and STEM Summer Camps:** The NYC DOE Environmental Study Center (ESC) is offering summer enrichment programs for Pre-K to 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
- **Solar One Professional Development Workshop** – On **June 4**, join teachers from schools across the city for Solar One's FREE [Green Design Lab](#) Professional Development & Curriculum Workshop. Teachers will be introduced to Solar One's Green Design Lab and CleanTech curricula which explore sustainability and STEM through five content 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. Seats are limited, [register now](#).
- **Active Design in Schools Toolkit**  
Check out the [NEW Active Design Toolkit](#) for Schools and learn how to transform school environments to improve student health.
- **GrowOya!**  
Grow NYC is giving away Oyas—terracotta pots that you plant in your garden to save water, save time and make your growing easier—donated to NYC school gardeners from GrowOya! Pick one up for your schools by sending GrowNYC a proud picture of your garden! Please note that if your picture includes students, it must be accompanied by photo release forms, send all submissions to [growtolearn@grownyc.org](mailto:growtolearn@grownyc.org).
- **Are interested in incorporating project-based lesson plans about sustainability into your curriculum?** The [Center for Green Schools](#) will be launching an online education platform to provide K-12 schools one-stop access to the best resources for sustainability. Launching in August 2015, the pilot will be tested throughout the 2015-2016 school year. Encourage your favorite educator to [apply here](#) to take part in the one-year pilot program. Deadline **June 30**
- **Materials for the Arts** is offering Summer Professional Development [Sessions](#) for P-Credits this Summer.
  - *Creative Infusion; Art & Reuse in the Classroom July 6-11 (Monday – Saturday)*
  - *Paper; From Pulp to Fiction July 13-18 (Monday-Saturday)*
  - *Props, Costumes, and Set Design for Oral Presentations July 20-25 (Monday - Saturday)*
  - *Raw Fibers; The Art of Fabric July 27-August 1 (Monday - Saturday)*
- **Summer Professional Development Sessions** offered by the **New York Botanical Gardens**. Currently the NYBG is offering the following four [sessions](#) this summer:
  - *Seedlings for Early Childhood Educators July 6-11 (Monday - Saturday)*

- *Plant, Learn and Grow: Gardening 201* July 13-18 (Monday-Saturday)
- *Botany in the Garden* July 20-25 (Monday - Saturday)
- *The Art of Science* July 27-August 1 (Monday - Saturday)

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## Resources

- [National Child Awareness Program Youth Ambassador](#)-- \$1,000 grant to support the development of a youth-focused service initiative. Deadline: June 10
- [Ocean Awareness Student Contest](#) -- Middle and high school students are asked to think critically about the challenges facing the ocean, students may enter in one of four categories: art, poem, prose or film. Cash prizes range from \$100 to \$1,500. Deadline: June 15.
- [Woodard & Curran Foundation Grant](#) -- to promote a clean and sustainable environment, up to \$20,000 Deadline June 15
- [Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Teaching Champion Award](#) - for innovative approaches to economics education, \$5,000 + \$2,500 for school. Deadline: June 15
- [Zayed Future Energy Prize](#) - \$100,000 to one high school from the United States. Deadline: June 22
- [Dream Big Teacher Challenge](#) – Are you a teacher that wants to impact the lives of the children and families in your school and community? Submit your proposal for up to \$100,000. Deadline: June 30
- [Mazda Foundation](#) -- grants to programs promoting education and literacy, environmental conservation, cross-cultural understanding, social welfare and scientific research. Deadline: July 1
- [Entomological Society President's Education Awards](#) -- recognize educators who have gone beyond the traditional teaching methods by using insects as educational tools. Win up to \$800 grant. Deadline: July 1
- [Materials for the Arts](#) - The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs' reuse facility offers free reusable supplies to all NYC DOE teachers and non-profit arts organizations.
- [Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Awards](#) -- recognizes schools that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving children's health by promoting good indoor air quality (IAQ) practices. Ongoing deadline.
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for the cost of shipping and handling
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)— up to \$1,000. Ongoing deadline
- [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
- [NWF Trees for Wildlife](#) - Get 100 free tree seedlings for your school. Apply 90 days before event
- [Toshiba America Foundation STEM Education Grants](#) – Ongoing deadline
- [Fund for Teachers Professional Development Grants](#) - Ongoing deadline
- [The Captain Planet Foundation](#) -- provides grants between \$500 and \$2,500 to school and community groups to support hands-on environmental projects. Deadline: September 30

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## Partner Spotlight



[Materials for the Arts](#) collects unneeded items from businesses and individuals, and make these donations available for free to its recipients: nonprofit organizations with arts programming, government agencies, and public schools. These partnerships, both public and private, enable MFTA to offer unique support to the arts and cultural community while advancing reuse, recycling, and waste reduction as a goal of municipal government. MFTA continues to set high standards for efficient operations, distribution of materials, and educational programming. The MFTA warehouse is operated by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with additional support from the City's Departments of Sanitation and of Education.

The Education Center at Materials for the Arts offers programming focused on creative reuse: making art with readily available materials and the ever-changing MFTA warehouse inventory. The Center hosts programs in two studios, organizes exhibitions of recipient artwork at MFTA Gallery, and sends teaching artists into the community to share the art of reuse. Since 2002, the Center's programs have reached tens of thousands of educators, students, artists, therapists, afterschool leaders, and community service providers. MFTA education programs help you differentiate instruction and engage students in learning with hands-on, standards-aligned art projects made using free supplies from the warehouse.

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## Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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

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