



Department of
Education

The **NYC DOE**
Sustainability Initiative

Sustainability Newsletter

October 8th, 2013

schools.nyc.gov/sustainability

NEWS:

- **New Organics Collection Materials:** GrowNYC has new materials available to assist you with your organic collections program. Please visit: www.grownyc.org/schoolorganics
- **Free In-School Bike Safety Program:** Fall's here and kids are back in school. For many students, that means commuting to and fro on two wheels. Do your students know how to stay safe on a bike? Let the experts at Bike New York teach your students how to keep it fun and safe on a bike. Bike New York can send a cycling instructor to your school, who will provide a fun, interactive program for kids in 3rd grade – 12th grade. Programs last approximately one class period, and are designed for classroom or auditorium-sized audiences. You can find more information on our [website](#) and on the attached Fact Sheet. For other questions or to schedule a FREE Bike Driver's Ed assembly at your school or organization, please contact Zoë Cheswick, zcheswick@bikenewyork.org or 212-870-2097.
- **GrowNYC:** Announces the Green Infrastructure Toolkit for homeowners, community gardeners and residents interested in storm water management techniques. Learn how to help minimize the effects of rainfall on water bodies in NYC and decrease the risk of combined sewer overflow and flooding. [Download the Green Infrastructure Manual](#) to watch videos, look at photos, detail drawings, and utilize material lists to build your own rain garden, rainwater harvesting system, bioswale and more.
- **Creative Art Contest:** The green social enterprise that cares for plants, the environment, and people, will be donating \$600, to every Staten Island school that participates in the Fall 2013 Textile Recycling "Creative Arts Contest" for elementary through high school students. The six hundred dollar charitable donation (paid in monthly installments throughout the school term) will be dispersed through the Environmental Club initiative. Contest guidelines can be found online at spingreen.com. Deadline for submissions is October 31st. For further information [contact: angelahart@spingreen.com](mailto:angelahart@spingreen.com).
- **Solar One:** The Green Design Lab Sustainable Schools Network is your resource for greening your school, while engaging students in learning about sustainability and emerging green technology. Green Design Lab engages the whole community in making schools sustainable through hands-on, STEM-focused educational activities that promote change through action. We are currently scheduling for fall of 2013. Please fill out our [Activity Request Form](#) to sign up for an activity, and visit our website at www.thegreendesignlab.org

- **Back to School with Greenmarket Youth Education:** Greenmarket Youth Education's [School Tours Program](#) provides children in grades K-12 with the opportunity to discover the diverse varieties and delicious flavors of farm-fresh food and explore and interact with the lively community found in our farmers markets. Tours may be scheduled at any of Greenmarket's [locations](#) in the five boroughs, and involve an exploratory walk-through of the market, fun seasonal tastings of Greenmarket farm products, and take-home activities and recipes. [Learn more](#) about how to sign up for a school tour!

EVENTS:

- **GREEN APPLE DAY OF SERVICE:** On September 28, the second annual international [Green Apple Day of Service](#) called community members and school staff and educators to take a moment to recognize the importance of *where* students learn—to call for more respect for our schools as centers of community and learning. We would love to hear about your school's project! Email us at sustainability@schools.nyc.gov.
- **A Day in the Life of the Hudson River:** On October 10, students will sample, learn about and engage with the Hudson River. The data collection will be shared using Web-based technology so they can understand how their section of the river fits into the Hudson River estuary ecosystem. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/lands/47285.html to apply and learn more about this exciting event.
- **City that Drinks the Mountain Sky:** 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 18 at 10:15am and noon. For reservations, please call the Tribeca box office at 212-346-8468. [City that Drinks the Mountain Sky Study Guide and Program Announcement](#)
- **BIG APPLE CRUNCH:** The Big Apple Crunch is an attempt to set the world record for the "Most Participants in an Apple-Crunching Event." This event will take place on FOOD DAY - October 24, 2013. New Yorkers can participate by finding a crunch near you: at any of GrowNYC's Greenmarket Farmers' Markets or another location near you, or by hosting a crunch yourself! Please go [here](#) to sign up!

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- [Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation](#): For the 2013-14 school year, the foundation will give priority to K-12 schools with basic necessities, with a preference for funding requests that have a permanent impact, such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) as well as landscaping/cleanup projects. Projects that encourage parent involvement and help build stronger community spirit are encouraged.
- [Whole Kids Foundation and Food Corps](#): The School Garden Grant Program supports school garden projects that help students learn about complex topics such as nutrition and health, sustainability and conservation, food systems, and community awareness.

- **\$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 Foundation. Participating schools will be eligible for an Eco-Schools award. Request an application: fanoe@nwf.org or (646) 502-7096.
- **GO FOR THE GREEN in 2014 with Eco-Schools and WIN \$5,000!:** NYC Eco-Schools, in conjunction with the NYC DOE Sustainability Initiative, is offering \$5,000 grant awards to the first four NYC Eco-Schools that achieve Eco-Schools USA's Green Flag during the 2013-14 school year! Please review the Green Flag award criteria (you must implement 3 Eco-Schools Pathways, one of which must be Energy, complete the Eco-Schools Green Flag application, and pass a site inspection). Winning schools will be required to submit a one-page proposal, explaining how they will use their grant award. Funds must be used for a school sustainability initiative and spent by June 30, 2014. Please contact Emily if you have any questions: fanoe@nwf.org or (646) 502-7096!

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:

The National Wildlife Federation's [Eco-Schools USA](#) is a free K-12 program that can help schools reduce waste, conserve resources, increase environmental awareness, save money, and enhance student academic achievement. The program is aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and the USED Green Ribbon Schools program. Eco-Schools USA provides schools with their choice of "[Pathways](#)" to sustainability, including topics such as: Energy, Consumption and Waste, School Grounds, Water, and Sustainable Food. Each Pathway includes a sample Audit, Action Plan, "Top 10 Tips" and curriculum resources for that topic. Once Pathways are completed, schools can apply for Eco-Schools Bronze, Silver and [Green Flag awards](#), to get well-deserved recognition for their hard work to green their schools inside and out.

Registered Eco-Schools get their very own [dashboard pages](#) where they can collect metrics, post updates, and keep track of their progress towards Eco-Schools certification. They also get on-the-ground support to help them with program implementation. [Registering a school in the program is completely free and quick and can be done online](#). Registered NYC Eco-Schools receive a monthly e-newsletter packed with resources, including tips on fundraising and invitations to free events and workshops throughout the year. For more information, contact NYC Eco-Schools Outreach Manager Emily Fano at fanoe@nwf.org or (646) 502-7096 and join the [NYC Eco-Schools' Facebook group page](#)!

Contact Us: sustainability@schools.nyc.gov