

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

February 5, 2014

School Spotlight

Benjamin N Cardozo High School and The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria win in the high school division of the Fall 2013 Made by Milk contest.



Eco-Schools

Partner Spotlight

[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.

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School Spotlight

[Benjamin N Cardozo High School](#) in Bayside, Queens and [The Young Women's Leadership School](#) in Astoria, Queens won in the high school division of the Fall 2013 [Made by Milk](#) contest. The Made By Milk contest encourages students to build strong bones with milk and flex their creative muscles by repurposing milk cartons. Enter the Spring 2014 contest [here](#).



TYWLS "NYC Taxi" Contest Entry



Cardozo "Got Milk, Will Travel" Contest Entry

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News

- **The Bronx Design and Construction Academy takes home the prestigious Zayed Future Energy Prize!** The school earned global recognition last week when it received the Zayed Future Energy prize, a distinguished international award, for its blueprint to build a sustainable energy research center. The students outperformed a deep field of competitors from North, Central and South America to take home the award — which comes with a \$100,000 grant to help pay for the project. Check out the NY Daily News article [here](#).
- **The Sustainability Initiative announces a new partnership with the Green Education Foundation.** Explore GEF's [free Lesson Clearinghouse](#) to find thousands of stand-alone lessons that are easily integrated into your existing curriculum plans. The Clearinghouse offers a place for educators to collaborate by sharing their own sustainability activities and commenting on their favorite lessons. Search for lessons by grade level, or subject area.
- **Congratulations to the 2013 NYC DOE Green Cup Challenge® participants!** Last October 190 schools participated in the [Green Cup Energy Challenge](#) and collectively saved 1,373,892 kWh in just four weeks. That's means over 2 million pounds of carbon dioxide was kept out of the atmosphere! In November, 26 DOE schools joined the international [Green Cup Recycle Challenge](#) where five DOE schools earned the title of "Recycling Hero" by reaching the highest achievement level. Learn how Energy Challenge winner P. S. 57 Hubert Humphrey in Staten Island, Recycle Challenge winner I.S. 66 in Brooklyn and other top schools [saved electricity](#) and achieved impressive [waste reductions](#).

- **Three NYC Eco-Schools**—PS41 (Manhattan), MS442 (Brooklyn) and Bronx Design and Construction Academy are collaborating on a K-12 [green roof curriculum guide](#) to help schools with green roofs integrate them into their existing curriculum and inspire other schools to install them. Please support their [indiegogo](#) campaign to help speed up production and publication, slated for the Fall of 2014!

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Events

- [National Green Week 2014](#): Join the largest K-12 sustainability education movement going by signing up for National Green Week 2014! 'Green Week' kicks off now and lasts through April 25, 2014. You choose any week during that time to be your Green Week. GEF will be raffling over \$10,000 in prizes through Earth Day – so don't, wait sign up today!
- Join students and teachers from all over NYC for STOP Bags on Saturday, March 1, and prepare to bring this environmental issue before City Council. [Students Take On Plastic Bags](#) is making things happen for a cleaner, greener NYC! Keynote speaker: Ron Gonen, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Sanitation, and performance by AshEl 'Seasunz' Eldridge. Lunch included; registration is free. For more information and to register, click [here](#).
- Free Webinars: The [Green Strides Webinar](#) Series provides school communities the tools to reduce their schools' environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental education. It provides all schools access to the resources that help them move toward the Pillars of our [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#) recognition award.

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Opportunities

- The 6th Annual [Student Climate & Conservation Congress](#) (Sc3), in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier environmental leadership program in the U.S. for students entering 9-12 grades next fall. Applications are now open and are off to a vigorous start - so apply early! Program dates: June 22-28, 2014. To learn more or apply, click [here](#).
- Earth Day Network is proud to announce our second annual [National School Lunch Week](#), poster contest to promote the importance of eating healthy sustainable foods in school! Like last year, the contest asks students from all over the country to submit posters describing what a healthy school lunch means to them. [Submissions](#) due February 28th!
- Sponsored by US EPA, the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students. Prize is \$2,000. Application deadline: February 28, 2014. [Applications](#) due February 28!
- [Clean Tech Competition](#): A Solution to Pollution: With a team, identify a pollution hazard anywhere in the world, and design a solution that uses clean energy technology to address the problem, help meet human needs, and

improve lives. The Clean Tech Competition is a unique, worldwide, research and design competition for pre-college youth. The program encourages scientific understanding of real-world issues and the integration of environmentally responsible energy sources. Learn more [here](#).

- The AF&PA Recycling Awards annual recognize outstanding paper recycling programs, since being established in 2006. The annual awards program has been redesigned this year to offer increased opportunities for recognition of even more outstanding paper recycling efforts. [Applicants](#) in three categories – school, business and community – now have four chances to win in each category. Deadline for entry is March 7!
- [Learning Garden Challenge](#): Dole Foods and Captain Planet Foundation are teaming up to host the “DOLE Fruit Bowls & Captain Planet Foundation Learning Garden Challenge.” The contest will recognize schools (K - 8) that have established school gardens that provide an occasion for learning, environmental stewardship and an understanding of the role that fresh fruits and vegetables play in a healthy lifestyle. Schools who have existing gardens are invited to enter the challenge for a chance to win up to \$5,000! There will be five (5) finalists selected from around the country. The Grand Prize winner will receive \$5,000 and the four (4) runners-up will receive \$1,000 each. All five finalists will receive a one-year supply of DOLE Fruit Bowls, and essential Learning Garden tools from Captain Planet Foundation- including a mobile cooking cart, learning garden lessons and lesson supply bins. All winners will be announced around Earth Day (April 22, 2014). The entry deadline is March 12, 2014.
- GLP Films’ [Student Film Project](#) contest invites students to pick up a camera and create their own short films documenting sustainability-related stories in their school, home, or community. Whether telling the story of a healthy food revolution on campus, a local wildlife rehabilitation center, environmental restoration at a local reserve, the sustainability efforts of an individual, or dozens of other empowering sustainability stories, students have the opportunity to make a difference by documenting and sharing the positive stories of sustainability in their communities. Click [here](#) for more info. Deadlines in March and May 2014!

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Resources

- [Grow to Learn NYC](#) is accepting applications for [mini-grants](#) of \$500 to \$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 March 5, 2014. Need help with the application? Attend a grant-writing and garden planning workshop on 2/5, 2/19, or 2/25. More details and RSVP info [here](#).
- [American Honda Foundation Grants \(K-12\)](#)—up to \$75,000. Deadlines February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1, 2014.
- [NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants](#)—up to \$5,000. Deadlines February 1, June 1, October 15, 2014.
- [ING Unsung Heroes Award \(K-12\)](#) - \$2,000 - \$25,000. Deadline April 14, 2014.
- [Discovery 3-M Young Scientists Challenge \(5-8\)](#) - up to \$25,000. Deadline April 22, 2014.

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Partner Spotlight

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!](#)

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Contact Us

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