

## Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

February 24, 2014

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P.S. 41 - The Greenwich Village School took their Urban Eco-Club students on a tour of their electrical and boiler rooms, led by custodial engineer Igor Ioustous.

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## School Spotlight



P.S. 41 - The Greenwich Village School took their Urban Eco-Club students on a tour of their electrical and boiler rooms, led by custodial engineer Igor Ioustous. Custodial staff member Basilio Espinal showed students the building's workshop, explaining several projects he was working on.

Students learned the custodial staff don't just keep the school clean, but repair many systems throughout the school. The students were beyond excited, had great questions, and will always remember being the first students to see the inner workings of the school.



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## News

- **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.
- **Three NYC 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!
- **Green Schools National Conference** is March 27-29 in Sacramento, CA. If you are attending the [conference](#), please let us [know](#). We'd love to connect with you in California!

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## Events

- **February 26:** The [Billion Oyster Project](#) (BOP) is a long-term, large-scale plan to restore one billion live oysters to New York Harbor over the next twenty years and in the process train thousands of young people in New York City to restore the ecology and economy of their local marine environment. A free workshop for middle and high school teachers will take place at New Dorp High School on Wednesday, February 26 at 4:30pm. Register [here](#).
- **March 1:** 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](#).
- **March 22: Sustain-A-Mania: NYC Students Leading the Way for School Sustainability!** [Sustain-A-Mania](#) is a chance for high school students (grades 9-12) to come together with other students who care about our future. To make a real action plan for making our schools more sustainable in NYC! The event includes youth speakers, the award-winning ACE Climate Change Presentation, and action-focused workshops. *Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, from 9:00am - 3:30pm.* Click [here](#) for more details and a flyer to use in your school.
- **March 26:** NYC Eco-Schools' second Sustainability Coordinator gathering of the 2014 school year will be held at I.S. 204 in Queens, Wednesday, March 26 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Maximum capacity is 40. [RSVPs](#) will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

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## Opportunities

- **Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest:** The NYC Department of Environmental Protection announced its 28<sup>th</sup> Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. Students in grades 2-12 can submit photographs, digital art, and video in addition to other forms of artwork and poetry that creatively expresses and understanding of, an appreciation for, water. **All submissions will be accepted through March 1.** Please click [here](#) for more details.
- **Materials for the Arts Spring 2014 P-Credit Courses:** [Project-Based Learning](#); [Reuse In ELA](#): Build student success by learning to use items from the recycling bin and free supplies from MFTA for classroom projects and presentations. These projects engage students in meaningful investigations, promote informal academic conversations, and encourage deeper comprehension of texts in ELA and across the curriculum. *\$365 (\$240 MFTA fee + \$125 ASPDP fee). March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5.* [Sign up here](#).
- **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!
- **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.
- **AF&PA Recycling Awards:** The awards annually recognize outstanding paper recycling programs. The 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!**
- **Climate Change In Focus Video Challenge:** The Environmental Protection Agency and the National Environmental Education Foundation sponsored a new video contest asking middle school students to produce a short video about climate change, why they care, and what they are doing about it. Winning videos will be highlighted on the EPA website and the winners will receive cool prizes like a solar charging backpack. The first 100 contestants to enter will also receive a year's

subscription to National Geographic Kids Magazine. **The deadline for submissions is March 10.** Visit the [website](#) for details.

- **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 K-8 schools 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. 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 toolkit from the Captain Planet Foundation. **The entry deadline is March 12, 2014.**
- **GLP Films’ [Student Film Project](#):** This 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!**
- **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. The winning team can earn its school up to \$5,000. Just collect your school’s milk cartons and use at least 100 of them intact to create a piece of art that fits the semesters’ theme. Enter the Spring 2014 contest [here](#).
- **Student Climate & Conservation Congress:** The 6th Annual [Student Climate & Conservation Congress](#), 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](#).

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## Resources

- [Grow to Learn NYC](#) is accepting applications for [mini-grants](#) of \$500-2,000 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. More details and RSVP info [here](#).
- [Captain Planet Foundation EcoTech](#) competitive grant program - Sixteen \$2,500 grants will be awarded to schools or non-profits organizations for the purpose of engaging children in inquiry-based projects in STEM fields that use innovation, biomimicry / nature-based design, or new uses for technology to address environmental problems in their communities. Application opens January 15, 2014 with rolling deadlines through May 31, 2014.
- [American Honda Foundation Grants \(K-12\)](#)—up to \$75,000. Deadlines May 1, August 1, November 1, 2014.
- [NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants](#)—up to \$5,000. Deadlines 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.
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)—\$1,000. Rolling deadlines.
- [NYC City Council and Borough Presidents Capital Grants Submissions](#) — Deadlines Feb. 27, 2014 (Borough) and April 9, 2014 (City Council).
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## Partner Spotlight



MillionTreesNYC provides free tree care training and resources to help you start up your own tree care project as part of your sustainability plan. By taking a few simple tree care actions, you can help young street trees grow into a strong healthy urban forest. Visit [MillionTreesNYC's Care page](#) to download the TreeLC handbook, sign up for a free tree care workshop, learn tree care tips, and pledge to care for a young tree by visiting our [Adopt-a-Tree map](#). Email [schools@milliontreesnyc.org](mailto:schools@milliontreesnyc.org) with questions.

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## Contact Us

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