

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

March 10, 2014

School Spotlight

Students at Dewitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, GrowNYC Recycling Champions Program, and NYC



DOE Director of Sustainability conducted a waste audit to understand and quantify the school's waste.

Partner Spotlight



Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that promotes the importance of sustainability education and helps schools and school districts make sustainability an ongoing part of education.

Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that

News

- P.S. 154 Earns the Green Flag Award from the NWF
- New Partner: Barefoot Foundation
- GrowNYC's New Solar Oven & Earth Science Lesson Plan
- Green Schools National Conference
- Recycling Champions Newsletter
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School Spotlight

Dewitt Clinton High School



In January, students at Dewitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, coordinators from GrowNYC Recycling Champions Program, and DOE Director of Sustainability conducted a waste audit to understand and quantify the school's waste. A waste audit is a hands-on activity for students to sort, measure, and understand the amount and type of waste their school produces.



The result of the waste audit, quantified by weight, revealed 50% of their waste was food, 17% paper, 16% metal, glass, plastic, cartons and 17% trash. The student Environmental Affairs Club is now in the early phase of their recycling campaign and students are distributing recycling containers and presenting 5-minute demonstrations in the classrooms. **Click [here](#) for resources to do your own audit!**

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News

- **P.S. 154 in Queens was recognized with the Green Flag Award** by National Wildlife Federation's [Eco-Schools USA program](#) for conserving natural resources and integrating environmental education into the curriculum. P.S. 154 is the second school in New York City, and only the 21st in the country, to achieve "Green Flag" status. To earn the Green Flag, P.S. 154's students and faculty tackled a host of sustainability initiatives that included forming an Eco-Action team; auditing facility energy efficiency, implementing a school-wide recycling initiative that increased their recycling rate by 268% and reduced its trash by 46%, launching a student health and nutrition improvement program, planting a garden, and instituting environmental-themed curricula. Click here for the full [press release!](#)
- **The Sustainability Initiative announces a new partner!** [Barefoot Foundation](#) provides sustainability education workshops to schools, non-profits, youth, civic groups and religious organizations. They strive to make a tangible difference by teaching the power of reuse, reduce, recycle and conservation of precious natural resources, prevention of greenhouse gas emissions and saving landfill space. The workshops are geared to create and inspire enthusiasm in learning green and help save precious resources to preserve our planet. At the end of the 6-week workshop, Barefoot Foundation donates an Indoor Learning/Aqua Garden to the school. Check out their [organization](#).
- GrowNYC's "**Solar Ovens and Earth Science**" environmental education unit is now available free of charge for Earth Science, Environmental Science and general science teachers, grades 7-12. The unit covers key concepts in the Earth Science syllabus: electromagnetic spectrum, wavelength, insolation, the angle of insolation, the Greenhouse effect, the solstices and equinoxes, absorption of light energy by color and texture, the First Law of Thermodynamics, specific heat, conduction, convection and radiation. Click to download the [lesson plan](#).

- **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!
- **Recycling Champions** has a new newsletter! Sign up [here](#).
- The DOE **Office of School Wellness** offers programs for physical fitness, nutrition, and health education that you can combine with other sustainability efforts. Sign up for their new newsletter [here](#).

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Events

- **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 want 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 22nd, 2014, from 9:00am - 3:30pm.* Click [here](#) for more details and a flyer to use in your school. **RSVP Deadline March 14.**
- **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.
- **March 29: Earth Hour!** Join millions of people across the world who switch lights off for an hour to raise awareness for the planet. Click [here](#) for info on how to participate.
- **April 22 is Earth Day!** Join the largest green festivities in the country at Earth Day in Union Square or Grand Central on Tuesday, April 22 from 11:00am to 7:00pm. Teachers are encouraged to bring their students to take part in kid-friendly activities, view live performances, and check out all of the green exhibits on site, including a green vehicle show and a green travel exhibition. Click for [more information](#).
- **April 30:** NYC Eco-Schools' third Sustainability Coordinator gathering will be hosted by [Stephen Ritz of the Green Bronx Machine](#) at the [JVL Wildcat Academy](#) in the Bronx, Wednesday April 30, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Hydroponically grown snacks will be prepared by JVL Wildcat's culinary program students. Stay tuned for more details.
- **June 22-28:** 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! To learn more or apply, click [here](#).

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Opportunities

- **DSNY Golden Apple Awards** offer **cash prizes** in three *TrashMasters!* contests open only to NYC

DOE schools. Show off your exemplary school recycling program, waste reduction initiatives, or cleanup and gardening efforts. Schools compete in separate Elementary, Intermediate, and High School Divisions for Borough and Citywide honors. [Start working on your projects now!](#) **Contest entry deadline is May 1.**

- **Sustainability Curriculum Project:** CELF's NYC Leadership Training in Sustainability Curriculum Project is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year. This program provides a multitude of benefits including: up to a \$1,000 school grant to support your school's Education for Sustainability goals; teacher stipends for a summer workshop and additional training during the year, earned P-credits toward salary advancement, one-on-one consulting from CELF throughout the year, access to cutting edge technology, STEM curriculum and more. To learn more or apply, go to CELF's [website](#). **Deadline is March 30.**
- **Clearpool Partner School Program for Environmental Science and Experiential Learning:** Nature-based education, experiential learning and exciting team-building exercises take place in a 350-acre "living classroom" where students can study environmental science, nature and wildlife, and conservation issues. DOE schools and programs with limited funds are eligible for up to \$75,000 in scholarship funds toward a [customized education](#) program. [Applications](#) for 2014-2015 are now being accepted. **Deadline to apply is March 31.**
- **Mighty Milers Spring Registration Open:** Imagine a school-based program that gets kids running, and includes rewards, for FREE. The program offers four different models to suit your student preferences. Learn more or apply [here](#).
- **Green Education Foundation's Protect Our Earth Poetry and Writing Contest:** Participate in this fun and educational [writing contest](#) where every student (and their teacher) who submits a poem or essay receives a prize! Hundreds of prizes will be given away. Three finalists will receive \$200 each for their class or school. Click [here](#) to view the prize list, rules and contest details. **Deadline for submissions is April 11.**
- **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](#). **Contest submission due April 16.**
- **Free Curriculum!** Explore GEF's free [Sustainability 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.

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Resources

- [Pledge to Plant with Seeds of Change](#) - Seeds of Change will be distributing two \$20,000 and fifteen \$10,000 grants to support sustainable, community-based gardening and farming programs around the country! Tweet #PledgeToPlant on Twitter or post @SeedsofChange on [Facebook](#) before March 31st to enter to win a home garden package valued at \$550.
- [Captain Planet Foundation EcoTech](#) - 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. Rolling deadlines through May 31, 2014.

- [NYC City Council Capital Grants Submissions](#) — Deadline April 9, 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.
- [New York Restoration Project's Gardens for the City](#) – Application for assistance with revitalizing public spaces. Rolling deadlines.
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for your school garden for the cost of shipping and handling only.
- [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.
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)—\$1,000. Rolling deadlines.
- [Zayed Future Energy Prize 2015](#) - \$100,000 grants for high schools. Deadline July 14, 2014.

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Partner Spotlight



The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, was founded in 2003 to promote awareness of the importance of sustainability education and to help schools and school districts make sustainability an ongoing part of education. They do this by providing consulting services for schools and school districts, training for teachers and administrators and sustainability education programs for students. CELF works with all kinds of schools—urban, suburban and rural, public and private.

CELF takes a comprehensive approach to integrating sustainability concepts into education, engaging students, teachers and administrators and involving parents and businesses as well. They work with all stakeholders in a school community to integrate the concepts and principles of sustainable development into education policy, school curricula, teacher education and lifelong learning. CELF partners with and provides guidance to education leaders who advocate for sustainability education at the state and national levels. The long-term goal is for every school to make sustainability education a regular part of its mission and on-going policy. To learn more, visit their [website](#).

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Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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