

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

March 31, 2014

School Spotlight



Columbia Secondary School in Manhattan hosted a range of activities for Earth Week including an energy pledge drive, a dress-down day, and special student activities.

Partner Spotlight



Alliance for Climate Education is a national leader in high school climate science education. They are dedicated to educating America's high school students about the science behind climate change and inspiring them to do something about it.

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- Sustain-A-Mania!
- iSchool Earns the Green Flag Award
- Welcome New Department of Sanitation Commissioner
- NYC Sustainability Coordinators Attend Green Schools National Conference
- GrowNYC's New Solar Oven & Earth Science Lesson Plan
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School Spotlight

Columbia Secondary School in Manhattan celebrated Earth Week March 17-22 with a range of activities. During the week, faculty members integrated environmental themes into their courses. In the Political Philosophy class, student Nicholas Pape gave an inspired full-period lesson on economic, political, and scientific solutions to environmental problems. He led lively discussions on vertical farming, world hunger, and more. The Green team also sponsored:

- An energy pledge drive
- An event on the International Day of Happiness and Well Being on how taking actions to be green and sustainable can contribute to your own and other's happiness
- A dress-down day to raise funds for a water system or sanitation project donation in a developing country

Global history students traveled to the United Nations on March 20 for a tour and to represent CSS at the special Earth Day celebration and the ringing of the Peace Bell with a variety of organizations and UN employees. And on March 22 several students attended the DOE's Sustain-A-Mania event to network with other teen leaders to build skills and connections for taking sustainable action.



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News

- **Sustain-A-Mania: NYC Students Leading the Way for School Sustainability** was held on March 22. Fifty students from Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens joined the Sustainability Initiative and its partners to learn ways to bring sustainable actions to their schools. The day included youth speakers, the award-winning ACE Climate Change Presentation, and action-focused workshops. The Sustainability Initiative looks forward to making this an annual event and empowering our students to take action!
- **The iSchool in Manhattan 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. To win the Green Flag, NYC iSchool students tackled a host of sustainability initiatives that included forming an Eco-Action team; auditing facility energy efficiency, and instituting environmental-themed curricula. The students were led by science teacher Pete Mulroy, who created engaging, standards-aligned science modules using the [Eco-Schools program framework](#) as a guide to address all aspects of sustainability.
- Welcome to the **new Department of Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia**! Kathryn Garcia, former Chief Operating Officer at NYC's Department of Environmental Protection, was an intern at the Sanitation Department

20 years ago, where, [according to the Daily News](#), she "fell in love with garbage." Ms. Garcia plans to make sustainability a top priority, with hopes to extend composting and recycling programs, the use of biodiesel in city equipment, and reducing truck traffic.

- Five Sustainability Coordinators: Danielle Lammering, Neil Glaser, Wendy O'Keefe, Marcos Suero, and Patricia Lockhart, and Director of Sustainability Sharon Jaye attended the **Green Schools National Conference** in Sacramento March 27-29. They joined NYC teacher Deborah Klingele and hydroponic farm teacher Tina Wong in learning how to make our schools more environmentally responsible. They all came back with great resources and ideas that they will share with you through upcoming issues of the newsletter.
- 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](#).
- GrowNYC Recycling Champions highlights **New Dorp High School** and **P.S. 30 Westerleigh** sustainability efforts in their blog. Check out the post [here](#).

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Events

- **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. There is limited space so register early! Click [here](#) to RSVP.
- **May 17:** Staten Island Rotary Club is sponsoring an Ecology Day Fair at the Staten Island Mall on Saturday, May 17, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Staten Island Schools can participate in the fair. Contact Lori Karelas at 718-667-4942 or lhkarelas@aol.com for more information.
- **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](#).
- **September 27:** *Plan ahead!* The Center for Green Schools' Green Apple Day of Service gives parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform all schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects. Check out [project ideas](#), read last year's [highlights](#) and register your [2014 project](#) today!

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Opportunities

- **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 31.**
- **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.**
- **Free Trees for Arbor Day!** New York City Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 25th. All schools are eligible for free trees to plant on that day, from the Nursery at John Bowne High School. To order tree(s), contact Arbor Day Coordinator Nancy Wolf at jinwolfinc@aol.com or call (718) 834-4589. **Deadline for orders is April 11.**
- **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.**
- **The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes** invites nominations for its 2014 awards. The Barron Prize, founded by author T.A. Barron, celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people or the planet. Ten winners each receive \$2,500 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment. Click [here](#) for more information. **Deadline to nominate is April 15!**
- **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.**
- **The Green Festival is coming to NYC April 26-27 and looking for volunteers.** To sign up as a volunteer, go to greenfestivals.org for more information. If you're interested in volunteering as a group, contact bryan.ting@greenfestivals.org to arrange for a group time slot.
- The **Atlantic Cup** is an environmentally focused race and offers students unique learning opportunities on the environment and environmental responsibility, as well as understand how sailors incorporate math, geography, and science into sailing, and more. If you are interested in the program, in NYC on **May 15**, contact Mindy Cummings atmindy@manukasem.com or at 401-619-4840.
- **Staten Island Schools only:** The Staten Island Rotary Club is sponsoring an Ecology Day Fair at the Staten Island Mall on **May 17**, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Staten Island Schools can participate in the fair but you must pre-register to participate. This year's theme is "Climate Change". Contact Lori Karelak at 718-667-4942 or lhkarelak@aol.com for more information.
- **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.**
- **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 31** 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



Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) is a national leader in high school climate science education. They are an award-winning national nonprofit dedicated to educating America's high school students about the science behind climate change and inspiring them to do something about it—while having fun along the way. ACE delivers two core offerings: the ACE Assembly and Student Action Program. The ACE Assembly presents climate science that resonates with students via an award-winning in-school assembly that blends storytelling, cutting edge animation, music and video. The Student Action Program kickstarts climate projects. When the ACE Assembly ends, many students are ready and eager to take action, and the Student Action Programs help get them started.

Other ACE programs include:

- National Do One Thing (DOT) campaign to help the environment.
- Student-led Action Teams take on carbon-cutting projects at school. Projects can be anything from starting recycling programs to solarizing their school.
- Leadership trainings are intensive one-day workshops for climate rock stars.

If you are interested in partnering with ACE's free climate education, contact the NYC coordinator, [Maayan Cohen](#).

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Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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Comments or Suggestions: sustainability@schools.nyc.gov

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