

## Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

April 28, 2014

### School Spotlight



country!

Maspeth High School in Queens was recognized with the National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. That makes 5 Green Flag Schools in NYC out of only 25 in the

### Partner

### Spotlight



[Grow to Learn](#) was created with the

mission to inspire, promote and facilitate the creation of sustainable gardens in public schools throughout New York City.

## News

- Special Earth Day edition of the Sustainability Initiative's newsletter coming soon
- Top 5 Schools in Solar One's Green Design Lab Energy Challenge
- Green Week 2014 extended
- Sustainability Initiative Announces Two New Partners!

## Upcoming Events

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## School Spotlight



**Maspeth High School, Queens was recognized with the Green Flag Award:** On April 25th, Principal Abdul Khurshid-Muttakabbir, biology teacher Aaron Bell and 30+ student Green Club (GC) members celebrated their Eco-Schools [Green Flag award](#) with Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, State Senator Joe Addabbo, and National Wildlife Federation's Emily Fano and Curtis Fisher. CM Crowley presented students with certificates of appreciation for their collaborations on community cleanups and tree giveaways with MillionTreesNYC. A presentation by GC students and a visit to the annual science fair preceded the celebration. Check out their [Facebook](#) page for more!



To earn the Green Flag (led by biology teacher Aaron Bell), Maspeth Green Club students have:

- Conducted facility-wide audits for waste and recycling, energy, and water use.
- Initiated a study of the school's heating and cooling systems to identify inefficiencies.
- Conducted recycling Town Hall assemblies, set up recycling bins, energy saving tips, and recycling messages in every classroom in the school and launched indoor and outdoor composting programs.
- Won the citywide and borough wide 2013 Golden Apple Award for recycling and reducing waste.
- Won the borough wide DSNY 2012 Golden Apple award for community beautification initiatives.
- Designed educational recycling games for the school's Halloween carnival.
- Grown hydroponic produce in the science lab, and created an indoor learning garden (to align with the Living Environment curriculum and to study nutrition and sustainable agriculture).
- Created an outdoor garden (with plans for a greenhouse), and planted several trees on campus.

Congratulations Maspeth High School!!

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## News

- The Sustainability Initiative is putting together a special newsletter on schools' Earth Day and Week activities. If you'd like to be included in the special edition, please email [Sharon Jaye](#) by Wednesday, **April 30**.
- **Congratulations to the Top 5 Schools in Solar One's Green Design Lab Energy Challenge!** Over a 4-month period from December to March, these five schools combined saved 246,020 kilowatt-hours of electricity - enough to power 23 homes for one year. As a result of their efforts, they avoided 374,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, the equivalent of burning 182,000 lbs. of coal. As a prize for their success, each school was awarded \$5,000.

**1st Place: P.S. 126 Manhattan Academy of Technology with a 33% reduction**

**2nd Place: P.S. 256 Benjamin Banneker Elementary with a 23% reduction**

**3rd Place: M.S. 126 John Ericsson Middle School with at 22% reduction**

**4th Place: Energy Tech High School & I.S. 204 Oliver W. Holmes with a 20% reduction**

**5th Place: P.S. 003 The Bedford Village School with a 18% reduction**

Over 70 schools competed in this year's challenge, each bringing students, teachers and custodians together with the goal of school-wide electricity reduction. From shutting off lights to unplugging unused appliances, average energy savings ranged from 5 to 23 percent for most schools when compared to average electricity usage for the same period over the past two years. Interested in joining the Energy Challenge next school year? Contact Joe Chavez at [gdlssn@solar1.org](mailto:gdlssn@solar1.org) to find out how you can participate.

- **Green Week 2014** has been extended to **May 16** to accommodate school testing and April vacations. So if you haven't already done it, it's not too late to join the largest sustainability campaign going! Participation in Green Week is **FREE** as are all of Green Education Foundation's educational resources. In addition, GEF will be raffling over \$10,000 worth of prizes to participating schools as well as continuing its popular Green in Action Awards. Last year, over 5 million students participated and this year the goal is to have 8 million students engaged in sustainability education throughout the country. Visit <http://bit.ly/1awJvBP> to learn more and join today!!
- **The Sustainability Initiative has two new partners!**

[Skrapacular](#) increases environmental awareness by inspiring children and communities to transform trash into art and science all while teaching concepts of waste reduction and smart consumerism. Skrapacular can customize the program for K-8 classes, workshops, assemblies, and eco-events to align with curriculum requirements and afterschool program needs. Become a Skrapacular ambassador in your community. To schedule a class, workshop or discuss how a Skrapacular program can further your school's goals please contact [Michelle Del Guercio](#) or check out their [website](#).

[EnergyTeachers.org](#) is a charitable network of educators who share useful ideas and resources for learning about energy production and use. Services include a rich web site, newsletters, face-to-face consultation, a lending library, innovative projects, and other tailored services. The web site serves as a hub for gathering and linking to tools for planning curriculum like workshops, annotated links, field trips, lab-equipment, books, and more. Their most popular projects include Green Dollhouse Challenge (non-competitive awards for design that explores sustainability and play), Solar Cooking Workshops (a rigorous exploration of science and engineering of cooking, light, and thermal physics), and Field Trip Guide (database of hundreds of tour-friendly sites for learning about energy production and use). If you're interested in teaching about energy, [EnergyTeachers.org](#) will help you find the best resources out there, and help you develop and publish your own.

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## Events

- **May 3: I Love My Park Day** is an exciting statewide event, organized by [Parks & Trails New York](#) in partnership with [New York State Parks](#) and local Friends groups, to celebrate the entire park system and its needs. Volunteers will gather at over 80 state parks and historic sites to clean up park lands and beaches, plant trees and gardens, restore trails and wildlife habitat, remove invasive species, and work on various site improvement projects. [Click here](#) to find an event in your area and [register today!](#)

- **May 7:** [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) is hosting a program for all school administrators to learn about new and continuing programs for teachers and students provided by WCS for the next academic year! The event is May 7 from 8:00am - 9:30am and the Central Park Zoo. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/WCSRSVP2014>
- **May 10:** [Riverkeeper Sweep](#) connects volunteers to dozens of shoreline cleanups, tree-plantings, and other service projects. It is the signature New York event in the Waterkeeper Alliance SPLASH Series event, presented nationally by Toyota, and designed to connect people to their waterways. Registered volunteers are eligible for raffle prizes. There are over 80 Sweep Project Sites, so check out the website to [register!](#)
- **May 21:** Save the date to visit Green Flag Eco-School, P.S.146/Brooklyn New School (610 Henry Street) for our Brooklyn Sustainability Coordinator gathering. P.S. 146 weaves sustainability into every aspect of its curriculum, recycles and composts 75% of its cafeteria food waste, turns hard-to-recycle items into art projects, and is an official NYC Compost Project demonstration site.
- **June 5:** [A Pollinator for Every Classroom: Gardening for Wildlife at School and Beyond](#): A Hands-on Professional Development Workshop for K-12 Educators with National Wildlife Federation, Gateway National Recreation Area, and Community Greenways Collaborative Staff. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY. Thursday, June 5, 2014, 9:00am to 3:00pm. Educators will learn how to utilize NWF's Eco-Schools USA and Schoolyard Habitat Programs™ to help their students develop critical thinking skills, analyze, and solve relevant environment-based problems. Maximum capacity 50. Lunch included. Please RSVP to [fanoe@nwf.org](mailto:fanoe@nwf.org) by May 23.
- **June 5:** Edible Schoolyard Workshop: "Going Seed to Table Through the Academic Subjects" from 9:00am to 3:00pm at P.S. 216 in Brooklyn. Details and links to register [here](#).
- **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](#).
- **July 21-24:** [Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation 2104 Summer Institute](#): Introduce Education for Sustainability (EfS) to your classroom - any classroom, any subject! A 3-day workshop, with optional 4th day for further curriculum development and break-out sessions, Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY. Deadline to [register](#) June 15.
- **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

- **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. **Contest [entry](#) deadline is May 1!**
- **Sustainability Curriculum Project (deadline extended):** 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 May 5.**

- **[Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers:](#)** July 13-17, 4th-8th grade teachers from New York City and the NYC Watershed come together for 5 days and 4 nights at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center at Fahnestock State Park in Cold Spring, NY to discover the forests, water, technology, and communities of the NYC Watershed through field trips and presentations, practice hands-on science activities related to forestry and water quality, and explore curricula aligned to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Cost is FREE but you must apply. Click [here](#) for more information. **Apply by May 5.**
- **Trailblazing Teacher awards:** The Center for Green Schools is now accepting applications for the next round of Trailblazing Teacher awards. Fill out the application or notify your favorite teacher! They are looking for the nation's leading teachers who demonstrate their commitment to advancing eco-literacy and bringing environmental sustainability into the classroom. Top teachers get a place on the online map of experts and a \$250 gift card to help out in their work. Apply on the Center for Green Schools' [website](#) by **May 9!**
- **Attention Middle and High Schools!** The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has received a significant grant, enabling them to establish exciting new partnerships with 10 middle and high schools across New York City. They need help recruiting middle and high schools to apply for this partnership opportunity for the 2014-2015 academic year. Ideal schools for this program will have a proven track record of successful partnerships with community organizations, serve underserved populations, and have a highly functioning school environment. Ten schools will be chosen by a selection panel of WCS and outside educators to take part in this yearlong partnership. A small team of educators from each school will receive professional development on using the [Mannahatta2409.org](#) platform, programs for their students at our NYC parks, and support in creating learning experiences for use with their students throughout the year. Interested teachers and administrators can apply [here](#) by describing partnerships they already have and describing how this new partnership would fit into their school curriculum. **Applications are due June 1** and schools will be notified by June 26. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lindell at 718-220-5100.
- **[The Billion Oyster Project \(BOP\)](#)** is a long term restoration and education initiative developed by the New York Harbor School on Governors Island, a NYC Eco-School. BOP's goals are to restore one billion live oysters to New York Harbor over the next 20 years and, in the process, train thousands of young people to take an active role in restoring their local marine environment. BOP is **seeking middle and high school teachers interested in integrating "oyster gardening" and other marine science and technology projects into their classes and curricula.** If interested, contact the BOP Schools coordinator at [restore@nyharbor.org](mailto:restore@nyharbor.org).

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## Resources

- **[Dominion K-12 Energy or Environment Program Grants](#)** – up to \$10,000. Deadlines May 1, July 16, September 1, 2014
- **[American Honda Foundation Grants \(K-12\)](#)**—up to \$75,000. Deadlines May 1, August 1, November 1, 2014.
- **[ING Run for Something Better School Award](#)** - \$3,500 grants for elementary and middle schools to establish or expand a school-based running program. Deadline May 15, 2014.
- **[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, bio-mimicry/nature-based design, or new uses for technology to address environmental problems in their

communities. Rolling deadlines through May 31, 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.
- [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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## From the Green Schools National Conference....

by Patricia Lockhart, Sustainability Coordinator at R057

I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Green Schools Conference in CA this March with colleagues from around the city. The event was truly energizing, especially for sustainability coordinators! These types of conferences can truly provide access to fresh new ideas, programs, vendors and grant opportunities for schools. Because P.S. 57 was the first NYC school to win US Green Ribbon Schools and National Wildlife Green Flag status in 2013, I even had the honor of presenting at 2 workshops as a successful case study school. The first was to highlight our energy conservation strategies as winners of the NYC Green Cup Challenge with Dr. Sharon Jaye and the other as a Project Learning Tree Green-works Grant recipient for environmental stewardship.

While I was there I visited a workshop titled "Net Zero" schools, given Staten Island is preparing for the first NYC net zero school of its kind! I had the opportunity to work on the Staten Island school design team and our students piloted the dashboard system. When I returned, I shared information from that particular workshop with our NYC solar school design team. I also visited the Cloud Institute workshop which focused on Next Generation Science and Sustainability Standards. I went to the workshop to support our school's present work in the CELF (Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation) program. We played the "Fish" game which is a fun way to introduce students to becoming actual "earth citizens" by maintaining fish in the harbor for years to come.

In other workshops, I learned about schools that have made a difference in their communities through project based learning, thereby solving local problems using research, data, and authentic studies. I also learned about a game called "Village" where students create an entire fairy village testing real life authentic strategies in order to maintain it into the future. Students actually role play careers such as bankers, builders, engineers, and government officials while building their own town outdoors using household and/or natural items. I plan to utilize this project with students during my summer YMCA program! If you are interested in finding out more about these programs feel free to email me at [PLockha@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:PLockha@schools.nyc.gov).

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## Partner Spotlight



[Grow to Learn: Citywide School Gardens Initiative](#) is a project of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City in coordination with partners including NYC Mayor's Community Affair Unit, GrowNYC, the Department of Education and the Department of Parks & Recreation, The New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, and the Department

of Health and Mental Hygiene. Grow to Learn was created with the mission to inspire, promote and facilitate the creation of sustainable gardens in public schools throughout New York City. By pooling best practices, this initiative will ensure that every school has access to information and support needed to start and maintain a successful garden. Major sponsorship for this initiative comes from Bank of America, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Rachel Ray's Yum-o! Apply for Grow to Learn NYC mini grants [here](#).

Why Register with Grow To Learn NYC? Well, whether your school garden is in the planning stage, is being built, or is already up and growing, it's important to register with Grow to Learn NYC, the Citywide School Gardens Initiative. By registering you will be able to apply for a Grow to Learn NYC MiniGrant, become eligible to receive materials and expert assistance from GreenThumb, and a whole lot more!

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## Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

Submissions for Newsletter/Spotlights: [sjaye@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sjaye@schools.nyc.gov)

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