

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter
February 3, 2015

[School Spotlight](#)



The student green team at LaGuardia High School is advancing their recycling and organics collection program through great projects. Check it out!



The Sustainability Initiative has partnered with Greening Forward to present the annual student [sustainability summit!](#)

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School Spotlight

Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts



LaGuardia High School is working to advance their recycling and organics collection programs through Eco-Schools' Litter Less recycling grant program. Sustainability Coordinator Dale Hawrylczak and the student green team created a [video](#) to describe their commitment to getting recycling implemented in their school. Senior Joshua Nodiff wrote a [letter](#) to Mayor DeBlasio last year about his desire to create a sustainable school. And on February 11, they are hosting a [panel](#) on urban air quality, part of a series of lectures by scientists from Columbia University's Earth Institute.

If you would like your school to be highlighted in the School Spotlight, email sjaye@schools.nyc.gov!

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News

- **Introducing the Sustainability Initiative Webinars Series!** February 9 is "Recycling & Organics Collection Basics." March 16 is "Recycling Champions Best Practices." May 11 is "Save Energy in Your School." June 1 is

“Sustainability Initiative Basics.” [Click here](#) to learn more and register!

- **Green Cup Energy Challenge results coming soon!** We’re working with ConEd to verify our data so results of the competition will be announced soon.
- **Organics Collection is continuing!** With the news recently about the composting processing facility closing in Delaware, there have been some misunderstandings circulating about the Organics Collection program and its continuance. DSNY sends our schools’ organic waste to other composting processing facilities in the tri-state area, but the waste must have less than 10% contamination. This means our **schools have to improve their waste sorting practices** and make sure contaminants like polystyrene trays, plastic forks, and ketchup packets are kept out of the Organics Collection bin! Long term plans are in the works to convert to compostable products in the cafeterias, but that process takes time. For **FREE** resources on how to improve your program, check out Recycling Champions [website](#).
- **Youth Summit Registration Open!** Hosted by [Greening Forward](#), partnering with the NYC DOE Sustainability Initiative, the [International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit](#) (IYEYS) on **March 1** in the Bronx is a youth-imagined, youth-driven, and youth-executed event aimed at providing young environmentalists the tools they need to take their campaigns to the next level. From youth who have started global organizations, to those who are leading school-based environmental projects, IYEYS is for everyone. We also welcome adults who are looking to learn more about how to implement youth leadership and engagement strategies into their classrooms, organizations, or even businesses. [Register by February 15!](#)
- **Freshkills Park is open for school tours and programs!** The unique history of Freshkills provides the perfect case-study for issues of waste management, park planning, and sustainability. Students of all ages can benefit from our free in-classroom presentations, bus tours, or inquiry-based walking tours. Find out which [program](#) would be best for your classroom. To schedule a program, email freshkillspark@parks.nyc.gov or call (212)788-8277. Tours must be scheduled at least three weeks in advance. Remember, Freshkills Park remains closed to the public during this exciting transformation.
- Join the largest K-12 sustainability education annual event by signing up for [National Green Week 2015!](#) Green Week kicks off February 2 and lasts through May 2, 2015. You can choose any week during this timeframe to be your Green Week. It’s free, and GEF will be raffling over \$1,000 worth of prizes through Earth Day – so don’t, wait sign up [today!](#)
- **Free Environmental Education Materials from the EPA:** The National Service Center for Environmental Publications offers materials grouped by grade range (K-3, K-12, elementary school, middle school, high school, and general information for teachers). Resources include activity books, calendars, posters, and science fair activities in waste management, indoor air quality, wetland protection, and environmental science. Check out the [order forms](#) and submit a request today!

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Events

- **February 9, 2:30 - 3:30pm:** Webinar - [Recycling & Organics Collection Basics](#)
- **February 25:** NWF Eco-Schools’ Sustainability Coordinator Gathering at January’s spotlight school, [MS 217, The Green Magnet School for Career Exploration in Queens](#) at 85-05 144 St, Jamaica, Queens. Come and hear from teacher/Sustainability Coordinator Karen Phillips about the school's gardens, student-led energy and recycling

audits, social action teach-ins and "Earth Carnival." **Register by emailing fanoe@nwf.org.**

- **March 1:** The [International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit](#) is coming to the Bronx. For ages 5 to 25, the summit empowers youth to take what they know and put it into action. Hosted by Greening Forward and co-sponsored by the NYC DOE Sustainability Initiative. **Register by February 15!!**
- **March 4-7:** Now's the time to register for the 5th annual [Green Schools National Conference](#). The Sustainability Initiative sponsored ten scholarships for sustainability coordinators to attend the conference. If you are attending on your own, please let us know!
- **March 12: Basic Sustainability Initiative Training:** Our annual trainings are open to anyone in your school community that is on your green team. It doesn't matter if it's the principal, a teacher, a parent volunteer, or the custodian. Substitute coverage is subsidized. Click [here](#) for more info and to register. Deadline to RSVP is March 3!
- **March 16, 2:30 - 3:30pm:** Webinar - [Recycling Champions Best Practices](#)
- **April 24-26:** The national [Green Festival 2015](#) is coming to town Earth Week! We're working with the organizers to sponsor a citywide 9-12 environmentally-themed science fair to be hosted at the festival! Stay tuned for more details.
- **May 11, 2:30 - 3:30pm:** Webinar - [Save Energy in Your School](#)
- **June 1, 2:30 - 3:30pm:** Webinar - [Sustainability Initiative Basics](#)
- **June 21-27: [Student Climate & Conservation Congress](#)** - Applications Now Open - Students (and a limited number of faculty or staff) are invited to apply to become U.S. Green School Fellows and participate in the 2015 Sc3 Congress. Sc3 empowers outstanding high school students, entering 9th to 12th grade next fall, with the skills, knowledge and tools necessary to address climate and conservation challenges and better serve their schools and communities. [Apply](#) or [Nominate](#) today!

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Opportunities

- **Free Environmental Rap Superhero Assembly!** [Teens Turning Green](#) presents Mr. Eco and "The EcoHero Experience" assembly program. Through engaging hip-hop music videos, Mr. Eco empowers students to become "EcoHeroes" who know that their actions locally impact animals and ecosystems globally. Mr. Eco has performed at 120 California schools and will only be in the New York City area from **April 20 - June 5**. The assembly is already booked at seven Brooklyn schools. Check out music videos and [booking information](#) to reserve your spot for this amazing, scarce assembly opportunity to turn your kids into EcoHeroes!
- **Grow To Learn applications for \$500-2,000 Mini-Grants for NYC School Gardens due soon!** GrowNYC's [Grow To Learn](#), the NYC Department of Education and NYC Park's GreenThumb is currently accepting applications for mini-grants of \$500-2,000 to start or expand a learning garden program at NYC public and charter schools. Grow to Learn Garden Grants are funded in part by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York and Green Mountain Energy Company. [Grant applications](#) are **due on Wednesday, February 11**.
- **29th Annual Water Resources Art & Poetry Contest:** Second through 12th grade students from New York City and watershed schools are invited to submit artwork (including media such as paintings, photos, digital art,

videos) and poetry that creatively express knowledge, appreciation and understanding of New York's valuable shared water resources. Visit the [DEP website](#) to view contest guidelines, learn about New York City's water resources and the STEM connection, register and submit entries online, and see past winners' art and poetry. The deadline for submitting entries to DEP is Sunday, **March 1, 2015**.

- **Carton 2 Garden is now a National Contest!** Piloted by NYC DOE schools last year, Made by Milk announces the national roll out of the [Carton 2 Garden](#) carton recycling contest. The contest highlights students' creativity by re-purposing milk and juice cartons from the cafeteria to either build or enhance a school garden. Educators engage students in a hands-on experience creating teachable moments on environmental stewardship, sustainability and living healthy. The best use of cartons in the school garden can win a prize valued up to \$2,500 for building or enhancing the garden. Contest submissions are due April 22 so get [registered](#) today for your entry kit and start planning!
- **[New York Botanical Garden](#) Spring P-credit courses:**
 - Gardening 101, section 1 – February 16-21 (Monday-Saturday)
 - Seedlings for Early Childhood Educators – April 6-11 (Monday-Saturday)
 - Geology Rocks! Earth Science and Evolution – April 6-11 (Monday-Saturday)
 - Gardening 101, section 2 – April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 30 (Saturdays)
- **Tour Brooklyn's Largest Outdoor Fish Farm!** [Okofarms](#) at 104 Moore St. in Brooklyn offers guided tours and workshops talking about "AQUAPONICS = AQUACULTURE + HYDROPONICS." Learn about how Okofarms cultivates fish, vegetables, herbs and flowers in a recirculating eco-system. To sign up for a guided tour or workshop email oko@okofarms.com.
- **FREE TREES** are available for schools from John Bowne HS Nursery for Arbor Day celebrations on April 24. For information on ordering, contact Nancy Wolf at jlnwolfinc@aol.com or call her at (718) 834-4589. Due to spring break timing, the deadline for ordering is April 3.
- **National Awards:**
 - [Young Eco-Hero Awards](#) – Deadline February 28
 - [Norm Strung Youth Writing Award](#) – Entries postmarked by March 16
 - [Craig Tufts Environmental Education Scholarship Award](#) – Deadline March 27
- **National Competitions & Contests:**
 - [World of 7 Billion Video Contest](#) – Deadline February 19
 - [Audubon Photography Contest](#) – Deadline February 23
 - [Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant Competition](#) – Deadline to register February 27
 - [Plastic Film Recycling Contest](#) – Deadline March 1
 - [Endangered Species Day Art Contest](#) – Entries postmarked by March 1
 - [DuPont Challenge Contest](#) – Grades K-5 – Deadline March 1
 - [NWF Young Reporters for the Environment Competition](#) – Entries due March 13

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Resources

- [Materials for the Arts](#) - The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs' reuse facility offers free reusable supplies to all NYC DOE teachers and non-profit arts organizations.
- [Disney Friends for Change Grants](#) – up to \$500 for Global Youth Service Day projects. Deadline February 18
- [Mantis Awards for Community and Youth Gardens](#) – Gardening equipment award. Deadline March 6

- [Grant-Funded Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers](#) – Deadline March 13
- [Captain Planet Foundation EcoTech Grants](#) – up to \$2,500. Rolling deadlines through April 30
- [New York Restoration Project's Gardens for the City](#) – For assistance with revitalizing public spaces
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for the cost of shipping and handling
- [The Awesome Foundation](#) – up to \$1,000. Rolling deadlines
- [Build It Green!NYC](#) - two non-profit reuse centers filled with low-cost salvaged building materials
- [The Pollination Project](#) – up to \$1,000. Rolling applications
- [The World We Want Foundation](#) - \$500 - 5,000. Supports youth making positive social change
- [NWF Trees for Wildlife](#) - Get 100 free tree seedlings for your school. Apply 90 days before event.
- [Toshiba America Foundation STEM Education Grants](#) – Rolling deadlines
- [Fund for Teachers Professional Development Grants](#) - Rolling deadlines

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Partner Spotlight



Greening Forward is a youth-driven, youth-led, and youth-imagined environmental organization. Founded in 2008 by the then 12-year-old Charles Orghon III, Greening Forward has grown into one of the largest entirely youth driven not-for-profit organizations. Through grants, mentorships, the annual [International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit](#), and other [programs](#), Greening Forward provides the tools and resources for young people to take what they know and put it into action. They catalyze the youthful energy, youthful mindset that young people have to create a more sustainable world.



Greening Forward is paving the way for young people to take direct leadership in shaping the world we wish to see, all while helping adult-run organizations to understand the power of youth in creating local and global change.

The NYC DOE Sustainability Initiative is very excited to be partnering with Greening Forward to bring youth-driven programming to NYC schools.

Please join us in the Bronx on March 1 for the International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit and [register](#) by **February 15!**

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Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

Submissions for Newsletter/Spotlights: sjaye@schools.nyc.gov

Comments or Suggestions or Subscribe/Unsubscribe to the Newsletter: sustainability@schools.nyc.gov

Website: schools.nyc.gov/sustainability
