

**Sustainability Initiative Newsletter**  
February 25, 2015

[School Spotlight](#)



[P.S. 29 John Harrigan School](#) in Brooklyn earned the Green Flag through the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program. Congrats!



Eco-Schools USA is a holistic program for schools that works to extend learning beyond the classroom!

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## School Spotlight

### P.S. 29 John Harrigan in Brooklyn



[P.S. 29 John Harrigan](#) in Brooklyn earned the Green Flag through the National Wildlife Federation's [Eco-Schools USA program](#) for conserving natural resources and integrating environmental education into the curriculum. P.S. 29 is the sixth school in NYC DOE school system and 39<sup>th</sup> in the country to achieve "Green Flag" status. To earn the Green Flag, P.S. 29's students and faculty tackled a host of sustainability initiatives that included forming a green team comprised of 50 student leaders and developing action plans for the three Eco-Schools program pathways chosen by the school to qualify for the Green Flag award:

- ❖ **Energy:** Implemented the Green Cup Energy Challenge to create awareness around energy conservation at school and at home. Students made signs and reminded teachers to turn off lights and power down electronics; custodians turned off lights in common areas. Teachers integrated energy conservation lessons into science units.
- ❖ **School Grounds:** Students assisted in planting, caring for, and harvesting 20 different kinds of vegetables and fruits, as well as many varieties of flowering plants from the school garden. They created a butterfly garden and planted milkweed and mallow to attract bees and butterflies. The garden is regularly used as an outdoor classroom. Students have learned about plant and butterfly lifecycles and the importance of pollination. P.S. 29 is one of 12 schools participating in NYC Eco-Schools' "Growing a Wild Brooklyn and

Queens,” a pollinator recovery and habitat restoration program.

- ❖ **Consumption and Waste:** Student Green Team members spoke to their classes and staff about recycling, set up source separation stations in the cafeteria, provided weekly recycling information to the school, and included recycling lessons in the curriculum. All classrooms have student recycling monitors. Through participating in the GrowNYC’s [Recycling Champions Program](#), P.S. 29 was a 2014 citywide Department of Sanitation [Golden Apple Award winner](#), as a result of having increased its recycling rate by 146%.

Congratulations to Principal Dr. Rebecca Fagin, science teacher and sustainability coordinator Tina Aprea-Reres, building manager Carlos Hosking, parent volunteer Rhonda Keyser, and student Green Team Leaders!

If you would like your school to be highlighted in the School Spotlight, email [sjaye@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sjaye@schools.nyc.gov)!

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## News

- **Last chance for training this year!** On March 12, the Sustainability Initiative is hosting basic training at the UFT. The annual training is open to **anyone** in your school community that is on your green team, so pass this along to others in your school. 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!**
- **Sign up now for the next webinar!** On March 16, Recycling Champions is presenting “Recycling Champions Best Practices.” [Click here to register!](#) The February “Recycling & Organics Collection Basics” recording is now available [online](#).
- **Announcing the Winners of the [2014-2015 NYC DOE Sustainability Poster Contest](#)!** For the fourth year, the NYC DOE Sustainability Initiative hosted an artwork contest. Students created poster art with a CALL TO ACTION for sustainability initiatives within DOE schools. The contest was open to all NYC DOE schools (including charters) from all grade levels (K-12). Nine pieces of original art were selected that best illustrate how the school community can take action to be more sustainable. Over 350 students from all five boroughs and all grade levels submitted artwork. The winners are grouped by age level; 3 Elementary, 3 Middle, and 3 High School. Prizes will be awarded to all 9 winners at an award ceremony close to Earth Day in April. 15 additional students received honorable mention. **Three sets of grade-level posters will be produced and be available for schools to order for FREE later in the year (limited quantities).** Many thanks to all students who submitted artwork and congratulations to the 9 winners!

[Winners artwork slideshow](#)

[Honorable Mention artwork slideshow](#)

- **The Sustainability Initiative releases its [annual report](#) for 2013-2014.** New for this year, a partner section highlighting all the fantastic work our partners do in DOE schools. Check it out!
- **Announcing the [NYC DOE Green Cup Energy Challenge](#) results!** In November 2014, 165 DOE schools participated in the annual Green Cup Energy Challenge, reducing their electricity usage during a 4 week period. The schools in the challenge collectively reduced their usage 1,016,913 kWh, for an overall 8.5% reduction, saving 1,545,707 pounds of CO<sup>2</sup>. Visit the Green Cup Challenge website to learn more about the competition and make plans to participate next year!

Rank	Location	School Name	% Change From Baseline
1	Q480	John Adams High School	-52.7%
2	K005 K369	P.S. 5 Dr. Ronald McNairy School & P.S. 369	-39.9%
3	K097	P.S. 97 The Highlawn School	-36.9%
4	Q194	William Carr Middle School	-36.7%
5	K489	W.E.B. Dubois High School	-34.0%
6	K605	George Westinghouse Career & Technical Education High School	-32.7%
7	X179 X352 X369	Saw Mill Brook Campus	-32.5%
8	K273	P.S. 273 The Wortman School	-32.4%
9	Q018	The Winchester School	-32.4%
10	K003	P.S. 3 The Bedford Village School	-28.8%

- **6 DOE Schools Reach Recycling Steward Level in the [Green Cup Recycle Challenge](#):** Each year, schools across the country compete in the Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Recycle Challenge to recycle right and improve both schools' awareness and practices of handling solid waste. Q221, Q154, Q122, M381, K233, K383 reached the “recycling steward” achievement level with Q221 and K233 earning “most improved” status. Learn more about the [challenge](#) and make plans to participate next year!

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## Events

- **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. Over 150 students are registered!
- **March 12:** [Basic Sustainability Initiative Training](#) - 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. **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 grade 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

- **Apply Now for EPA's Environmental Educator Award:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, is now accepting applications for the [2014-2015 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](#). This award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who demonstrate leadership, service, innovation and achievement in environmental education (EE). Winning teachers will receive an award of up to \$2,500 to further their professional development in EE. The teacher's local education agency will also receive an award of up to \$2,500 to fund EE activities and programs. Previous NYC DOE award winners include Patricia Lockhart at [P.S. 57](#) in Staten Island and Nathaniel Wight at the [Bronx Design & Construction Academy](#). Applications are **due March 13**.
- **The National Wildlife Federation is seeking a Project Manager** for its [Greenpoint Eco-Schools program](#). This is a fantastic opportunity for someone with great organizational and management skills to be part of an innovative pilot program to advance sustainability in four schools and the community of Greenpoint, Brooklyn over three years. Deadline to [apply](#) is **March 6!**
- **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. Dates available are filling up quickly and now only available in the New York City area from May 7 - June 4. Check out music videos and [booking information](#) to reserve your spot for this amazing, scarce assembly opportunity to turn your kids into EcoHeroes! Deadline to book the assembly program is **March 6**.
- **DEP Water Resources Art & Poetry Contest:** Second through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 extended deadline for submitting entries to DEP is **March 13**.
- **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](mailto:jlnwolfinc@aol.com) or call her at (718) 834-4589. Due to spring break timing, the deadline for ordering is **April 3**.
- 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 the Green Education Foundation will be raffling over \$1,000 worth of prizes through Earth Day – so don't, wait sign up [today!](#)
- **STEM MATTERS NYC Spring Break Camps for Grades 1-8:** Application deadline is March 13
  - [Wildlife Detective Camp](#) at the Bronx Zoo (Grades 1-2)
  - [Zoo Explorers Camp](#) at the Bronx Zoo (Grades 3-5)
  - [Marine Career Exploration Camp](#) at the New York Aquarium (Grades 6-8)
  - [Art and Science Explorers](#) at the New York Botanical Garden (Grades 6-8)

- **[New York Botanical Garden Spring P-credit courses:](#)**
  - 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)
  
- **National Awards:**
  - [Young Eco-Hero Awards](#) – Deadline February 28
  - [Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program](#) – Deadline March 13
  - [Norm Strung Youth Writing Award](#) – Entries postmarked by March 16
  - [Craig Tufts Environmental Education Scholarship Award](#) – Deadline March 27
  - [Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement](#) – April 15
  - [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#) – Nomination deadline April 15
  
- **National Competitions & Contests:**
  - [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
  - [Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest](#) – March 15
  - [Living on the Ocean Planet Video Contest](#) – March 20
  - [Wildlife Forever State Fish Art Contest](#) – March 31
  - [Stockholm Junior Water Prize](#) – Deadline April 15
  - [Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge](#) – April 21
  - [Carton 2 Garden Contest](#) – April 22
  - [Science Without Borders Art Challenge](#) – April 27

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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.
- [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
- [Tropical Biology Teacher Scholarships](#) – April 7
- [Dorothy Stout Professional Development Grants](#) – April 15
- [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



[Eco-Schools USA](#) is a holistic program. It strives to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and culture of a school, including students, teachers, administrative staff, non-teaching staff and parents, as well as the local community. Eco-Schools USA works to extend learning beyond the classroom and develop responsible environmental attitudes and commitments, both at home and in the wider community. Whether you are a teacher, student, administrator or facilities manager, the Eco-Schools USA program can benefit your school and local communities.

The NYC Eco-Schools program was launched in 2012 and has grown from 8 to more than 265 schools. NWF staff have introduced the Eco-Schools program to more than 2,500 NYC DOE school Sustainability Coordinators and introduced NWF's [Schoolyard Habitats](#) to hundreds of NYC teachers through workshops at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (JBWR), and on P.S. 6's green rooftop in Manhattan. There are more than two dozen certified Schoolyard Habitats in New York City.

NYC Eco-Schools' Growing a Wild Brooklyn and Queens program, in partnership with the National Park Service, the Student Conservation Association, and others is working with 12 public schools to restore vital habitat for pollinators at JBWR and through the creation of pollinator-friendly school gardens. NYC Eco-Schools has also provided small grants to almost 50 of its schools since 2012 to implement the program's Consumption and Waste and Energy Pathways. To learn more about NYC Eco-Schools USA, [click here!](#)



Maspeth High School in Queens earning their Green Flag in 2014.

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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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