

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

May 20, 2015

### [School Spotlight](#)



Stuyvesant High School Environmental Club (SEC) hosted a fair in celebration of Earth Day 2015.



### [Partner Spotlight](#)

Grow to Learn was created with the mission to inspire, promote and facilitate the creation of sustainable gardens in NYC public schools.

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## School Spotlight

### Stuyvesant Environmental Club celebrates Earth Day!



Each year in celebration of Earth Day, Manhattan's Stuyvesant High School Environmental Club (SEC) hosts an Earth Day Fair. This year, their theme was the **Urban Environment**. To keep the fair educational and interactive, there was a mixture of educational boards and games set up around the school's cafeteria for every student to enjoy. Some examples of topics covered include: Green cities, Urban wildlife, and Bio-mimicry.

Other clubs also contributed to the Earth Day Fair such as the Key Club and the MSA, the school's principal, Ms. Zhang and Assistant Principal Ms. Pedrick even joined in the fun by competed in a recycling competition! An SEC member said, "We had a blast celebrating our Earth and learning more about the environment at the same time."



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

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## News

- **Sustainability Coordinators:** Fill out the annual survey **by June 12!** You should have received an email last week with the survey link for the annual sustainability survey. If you did not, please email us at [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov) and we'll send you the link. You can also help your principal designate your school's 2014-2015 Sustainability Coordinator early! We opened the form early so you can take advantage of professional development over the next few months. Talk with your principal about doing this soon!
- **School Spotlight Special**

The Sustainability Initiative is putting together a special 'End of the Year' special edition newsletter. With over 1,600 Sustainability Coordinators, every event, activity, special student, green team, etc. doesn't always get the chance to be highlighted in the newsletter. If you'd like to be included in this special edition, please email [Nichelle Hudlin](#) **by June 3** (submissions for the special Earth Day edition will be included in this special).
- **Get Free Posters from the Sustainability Initiative!**

Schools can now order FREE posters created from the winners of the student artwork contest! Quantities are limited so place your order by filling out [this form](#) as soon as possible. Many thanks to all who submitted their artwork and congratulations to the nine winners! Winners will be emailed details of the award ceremony this week. View [Winners artwork slideshow](#)
- **Bye Bye Polystyrene Tray. Hello Compostable Plate!**

On May 20, The Urban School Food Alliance (Alliance) announced that it will start rolling out the use of compostable round plates at cafeterias in six of the largest school districts in the U.S., including New York. A landmark collaboration, the Alliance's six districts challenged industry to develop an innovative and affordable environmentally-friendly round plate to replace the standard polystyrene tray currently used. The American-made molded fiber compostable round plate is produced from pre-consumer recycled newsprint, the round shape allow students to eat their food off of plates like they do at home, replacing the institutional rectangular lunch tray. Together the six districts serve 2.5 million meals a day, it is estimated that by using these new environmentally friendly trays 225 million polystyrene trays will be removed from landfills every year.

If your school is part of the DSNY Organics Collection program, please be sure to have students place the compostable plate in the **organics bin**. For all other schools, the plates should be placed in the landfill bin. School staff can inform parents and guardians of DOE's efforts in supporting the City's environmentally conscious polystyrene policy by printing and distributing this [informative flyer](#).
- **STOP Idling! Turn it off to clear the air.**

May is Asthma Awareness month; the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is asking New Yorkers to turn off their vehicles if it's not in immediate use. Engine idling in NYC causes as much pollution as nine million large trucks driving from the Bronx to Staten Island. Turning off your engine saves gas, money, and most importantly, your health and the health of your children. Let's work together in keeping the air clean. To learn more about the DEP's Anti-idling campaign visit their [website](#).
- **Queens students conduct a water taste test amongst their peers**

The student green team at Queens Vocational & Technical High School surveyed the entire school in a blind taste test to see if they preferred the taste of bottled water to tap water. The experiment was documented by

the journalism class and entered into National Wildlife Federations' Young Reporters for the Environment competition. With this [video submission](#), they won first place!

- **Students at P.S. 179 help the monarch butterfly population gets a boost**

Science teacher, Diane Corrigan and her first grade students are learning about the life cycle of monarch butterflies and helping this declining species at the same time. By growing milkweed in Dixie cups, they are creating an ideal environment for the monarch butterfly. Watch the segment on the [Today's Show](#).

- **NYS Lights Out Initiative**

Every spring and fall, thousands of birds migrate from their wintering grounds to their summer habitats, and vice versa, using the constellations to guide them to their proper nesting grounds, but light pollution from big buildings can make that difficult, if not impossible. Now New York State will do its part to help mitigate some of that light pollution, by requiring all state buildings to turn off non-essential outdoor lighting between the hours of 11pm and 6am during peak migratory periods, now through May 31 and August 15 through November 15. [Join your fellow NY'ers](#) by turning off non-essential lights within your, classroom, facility or home.

- **Career Opportunity – Garden Coordinator**

GrowNYC is seeking a School [Garden Coordinator](#) to support the growth of gardens in all five boroughs that are responsive to New York City communities and transformative for student learning in the classroom, the cafeteria, and beyond.

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## Events

- **May 28, 4:00 – 6:00pm** - Join NYC Eco-Schools for a Brooklyn Sustainability Coordinator Gathering at P.S. 29, 425 Henry Street. Learn how to integrate sustainability into your curriculum, tour P.S. 29's productive food and pollinator garden. Come and mingle with like-minded peers and get inspired. [RSVP](#) by Tuesday, **May 26**.
- **May 28, 6:00 – 7:00pm** – Are you a NYC School Principal interested in vegetarian & alternative menus? The Coalition for Healthy School Food (CHSF) is hosting a meeting for NYC School Principals who are interested in implementing vegetarian and alternative menus. The meeting will take place at the Peck Slip School, located at the Tweed Courthouse, and will include a tasting from the menus. Principals interested in attending should RSVP to [Amie Hamlin](#) no later than **May 26**.
- **May 29, 8:30am - 4:30pm** - Join EE Capacity and NAAEE for a [one-day workshop](#) to explore how environmental educators are incorporating resilience and climate adaptation into their programs.
- **May 30, 10:00am - 4:00pm** - [It's My Estuary Day event](#) at Coney Island Creek at Kaiser Park in Brooklyn. You're invited to a day of service, learning and celebration!
- **May 30, 9:30am – 5:00pm** - [Northeast Regional Youth Food Justice Summit](#) at East New York Farms! This summit is being organized by youth from several NYC based organizations involved in urban agriculture and food justice. Registration and Workshop deadline: **May 23**
- **June 1, 2:30 - 3:30pm** – Sustainability Initiative Webinar – Click to register: [Sustainability Initiative Basics](#)
- **June 10, 9:30am - 1:30pm** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual [STEM Matters NYC Elementary Science Expo](#). The Expo will have projects from elementary schools across New York City that exemplifies student interest, curiosity and a desire to explore the mysteries of the world.

- **June 11, 6:30pm** - Join Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation's Executive Director, Katie Ginsberg, for a panel discussion following the screening of [Project Wild Thing](#), a free event at the Ossining Library's Budarz Theatre.
- **June 12** – Deadline for the Sustainability Coordinator annual sustainability survey.
- **June 19, 12:00 – 1:00pm** – We invite you to participate in [The Daylight Hour 2015](#). Help us raise awareness about this important issue by turning off all lights in your classroom, facility and home for a single hour. If you're able to participate, please do and send us your pictures.
- **June 21 - 27** – [Student Climate & Conservation Congress](#) - Applications Due Soon! 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.
- **June 28 – July 3** - [Educator Climate & Conservation Colloquium](#), a NEW week-long professional development opportunity and certification program for school sustainability coordinators. Held at USFWS' National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. *If you're interested in attending, contact [Nichelle Hudlin](#) for discount code, financial aid is also available.*
- **July 24** – The first annual [DOE Sustainability Summit](#) will be held in the Bronx, NY. The summit will be a forum, discussion, instructional and networking place for Sustainability Coordinators, Administrators, Teachers, Custodian Engineers and school green team members. This one day event includes lunch and it's **FREE!** Submit a [workshop](#) idea, [sign up to exhibit](#), or [register now!](#)
- **July 24** – [Sustainability Excellence Awards](#) will be given to outstanding individuals and teams for excellence in environmental leadership and contributions to the DOE's sustainability initiative. We're seeking nominations and applications; anyone can nominate an outstanding person, group, school or themselves. Schools may submit entries in more than one category. Read the [eligibility guidelines](#) and rules and then use the online [nomination form](#) to nominate an individual or team. Nominations due **May 29**. Applications due **June 5**.

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## Opportunities

- **New York Recycles! Poster Contest**  
The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) invites all school age children to participate in their 13th Annual New York Recycles Poster Contest. This poster contest helps to achieve the state's goal of higher excellence in recycling, composting, and buying recycled products and packaging. The schools with winning entries will receive a recycled content tote bag filled with educational materials and videos. For contest rules, [click here](#). Submission due **May 22!**
- **Go Green! Sustainability Challenge Contest 2015** - The theme is "Greening our Urban Environment." ENTRY IS FREE! Each school is invited to enter one (1) contest submission, comprised of a footprint that is 10'x10' or less. The exhibit must represent works by students. Winners will be awarded a stupendous teak trophy to display until next year's Go Green! Sustainability Challenge, a beautiful plaque AND a \$1,000 cash prize. [Click here](#) for more info. Deadline to apply **May 29**.

- **The NYC DOE's Environmental Study Center (ESC)** is offering a unique summer opportunity for teachers and their students to learn the [Urban Barcoding Project](#) from leading experts through the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, DNA Learning Center. Through an application process, four teachers will be selected to join us for two weeks August 3- 14, 2015 with their team of 4 students. Application must be postmarked by **May 29**.
- **Introduce Education for Sustainability to your classroom:** On **July 20-23**, CELF is hosting a [3-day Summer Institute](#) that will enable K-12 educators to integrate the concepts of sustainability into their existing curricula. Deadline to apply: **June 1**.
- **Have any summer plans yet?** [Sustainable Summer](#), a Brooklyn-based environmental education non-profit, has several summer programs available to NYC teens with an interest in environmental sustainability. Please pass along this information to your student green teams!
- **Exciting Science and STEM Summer Camps:** The NYC DOE Environmental Study Center (ESC) is offering summer enrichment programs for Pre-K to High School students. Students will learn about gardening, animal care, cooking, art and forensics. Open to all students in the NYCDOE. Click [here](#) for more details
- **Solar One Professional Development Workshop** – On June 4, join teachers from schools across the city for Solar One's FREE [Green Design Lab](#) Professional Development & Curriculum Workshop. Teachers will be introduced to Solar One's Green Design Lab and CleanTech curricula which explore sustainability and STEM through five content areas: Energy, Air, Water, Food, and Materials. The lessons, filled with hands-on activities, use the school building as both a learning laboratory and tool for environmental change. Seats are limited, [register now](#).
- **Summer Professional Development Sessions** offered by the **New York Botanical Gardens**. Currently the NYBG is offering the following four [sessions](#) this summer:
  - *Seedlings for Early Childhood Educators* July 6-11 (Monday - Saturday)
  - *Plant, Learn and Grow: Gardening 201* July 13-18 (Monday-Saturday)
  - *Botany in the Garden* July 20-25 (Monday - Saturday)
  - *The Art of Science* July 27-August 1 (Monday - Saturday)

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## Resources

- [Kids in the Game Physical Activity Grants](#) - up to \$5,000. Deadline June 1
- [Woodard & Curran Foundation Grant](#) -- to promote a clean and sustainable environment, up to \$20,000  
Deadline June 15
- [Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Teaching Champion Award](#) - for innovative approaches to economics education, \$5,000 + \$2,500 for school. Deadline June 15
- [Zayed Future Energy Prize](#) - \$100,000 to one high school from the United States. Deadline June 22
- [Dream Big Teacher Challenge](#) – Are you a teacher that wants to impact the lives of the children and families in your school and community? Submit your proposal for up to \$100,000. Deadline June 30
- [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.
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for the cost of shipping and handling
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)— up to \$1,000. Ongoing deadline

- [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](#) – Ongoing deadline
- [Fund for Teachers Professional Development Grants](#) - Ongoing deadline

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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!

**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: [nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov)

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