

# Sustainability Initiative Newsletter



The **NYC DOE**  
Sustainability Initiative

## News

September 16, 2015

Inside this issue:

<a href="#">News</a>
<a href="#">Updates</a>
<a href="#">Events</a>
<a href="#">Opportunities</a>
<a href="#">Resources</a>
<a href="#">Partner's Spotlight</a>
<a href="#">Contact Us</a>

### Welcome Back to school!

We've changed the layout of our newsletter to make it easier for you to read and navigate. It includes highlights of what's to come in new initiatives, processes and opportunities, along with recognizing the great work being done in NYC schools by sustainability coordinators, green teams and various organizations around the city. We look forward to working with you this school year to make schools more sustainable.

### 1st Annual Sustainability Summit



The Office of Sustainability held its first Sustainability Summit on Friday, July 24 which drew over 100 eager participants, consisting of sustainability coordinators, teachers, custodial engineers and partners, all committed to improving sustainable efforts within the NYC school system. The summit provided an instructional and networking environment for participating individuals to share best practices, resources, and build stronger relationships.

The day-long event began with the keynote address, given by Afsana Akter and Amosh Neupane, both alumni of DOE public schools, the Alliance of Climate Education (ACE) and Global Kids program. Their powerful keynote address shared their personal stories of climate activism and how climate change has impacted their homelands.

Afsana spoke of the effect climate change has had on her birthplace: "I grew up in Bangladesh where the effects of climate change are destroying people's way of life. Sea level rise and severe tropical storms continue to intensify. People are losing their homes". Amosh who is from Nepal, spoke about his love for nature "We are the perpetrators of the slow, painful demise of our planet. Who will speak for the Himalayas and the Dead Sea? Who is going to project the voices of the dolphins and the plovers? Who is going to advocate for the voiceless, the ones being subjugated? I will." said Amosh. They closed their address by asking their peers to join them in taking action for a cleaner future.



The summit concluded with the first Sustainability Excellence Awards, which recognized outstanding individuals and teams for excellence in environmental leadership and their contributions to the DOE's Sustainability Initiative. Lets congratulate this year's winners:

#### Outstanding Sustainability Coordinator

Phil Richford - P.S. 197 Kings Highway Academy  
Nicole Miller - P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs Middle School  
Danny Steiner - Bronx Theatre High School

#### Outstanding Green Team

P.S. 57 Green Team - P.S. 57 Hubert H. Humphrey Elementary School  
M.S. 74 Green Team - M.S. 74 Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School  
Extreme Green Team - John F. Kennedy High School

#### Outstanding Event

The Big Lift - P.S. 130 Hernando De Soto  
Stuyvesant Annual Earth Day Fair - Stuyvesant High School

#### Outstanding Principal

Rosemarie Nicoletti - P.S. 197 Kings Highway Academy

#### Outstanding Facility

Luciano Paone - P.S. 54 Charles W. Leng Elementary School

Each team and individual will be highlighted in upcoming issues. Stay tuned to learn about the fantastic sustainability initiatives they implemented at their schools during the 2014-15 school year!

### Help Rebuild City Soils in 3 Easy Steps



Not planning to use those carrot peels and corn-cobs? GrowNYC will take them! See how easy it is to use more than 60 local drop-off sites that accept food scraps for composting to help improve the city's soil. [Watch this video](#) and visit [on.nyc.gov/dropfoodwaste](http://on.nyc.gov/dropfoodwaste) for a map of drop-off sites. And don't forget--many of GrowNYC's Greenmarket food scrap collections [accept clothing too!](#)

## News

### CELF hosted a 3-day Summer Institute on Education for Sustainability

The [Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation](#) (CELF) partnered with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Eco-Schools to welcome teachers, sustainability coordinators and administrators from P.S. 110, P.S. 34, P.S. 31 and M.S. 126 for immersion in EfS as these schools kicked off their participation as NWF Eco-Schools. Participants reflected on the meaning and value of EfS, then got busy creating actionable plans for incorporating the big



ideas of sustainability into their curricula. The enthusiasm was palpable as the group experienced hands-on activities, presentations and case studies of how to turn their ideals into practical classroom lessons. Anna Cano-Amato, Principal at P.S.110 said, "[CELF] helped to frame a working knowledge of sustainability issues with the vocabulary involved and helped create a commonality of language ... educating about sustainability doesn't need to be revolutionary, but is just refining the framework that already exists within our schools."



For more information about CELF programs, including a fall p-credit courses in EfS, go to [celfeducation.org](http://celfeducation.org).

### Get Free Posters from the Sustainability Initiative!

Schools can order FREE posters created from the 2015 winners of the student Artwork Contest! Place your order by filling out this [form](#) as soon as possible. Many thanks to all who submitted their artwork and congratulations to the 9 winners! View [winners artwork slideshow](#).

## GREEN APPLE DAY OF SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

**Green Apple Day Of Service** unites hundreds of thousands of volunteers around the world behind a common purpose: to put all children of this generation in healthy, high performing schools. Last year, more than 300,000 students, parents, teachers, and community members in all 50 U.S. states and 43 countries

hosted service projects at their local schools. This year's Day of Service will occur on September 26th, but you can do your service project any time in September or October to receive credit! To learn more about the Green Apple Day of Service, they will be hosting a [webinar](#) on September 22 for DOE schools only or you can visit [greenapple.org](http://greenapple.org) for more information including [event ideas](#), helpful resources, and to [register](#) your 2015 event today!

## Updates

- **Sustainability Coordinator Designation:** This year's Sustainability Coordinator designation deadline is [September 25, 2015](#). Talk to your principal about the [designation process](#).
- **Sustainability Plan submission:** Submit your [school's plan](#) by [Friday, October 30, 2015](#).
- **Sustainability Initiative Trainings:** We understand that sustainability efforts in your school take a team of people, all working toward meaningful change. Therefore, all sustainability 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 custodial engineer. So put together a team and bring them to training to learn about the DOE's sustainability initiative and how to affect change, with your school!

\* Save the Date\*

**Basic Training** - Friday, October 16, 2015 - [REGISTER NOW!](#)

**Advanced Training** - Tuesday, November 24, 2015

## Events

### September 19 - Stop 'N' Swap Events

Bring clean, reusable, portable items such as clothing, housewares, games, books, & toys that you no longer need, and take home something new-to-you, free! You don't have to bring something to take something. No furniture or large items, please. Learn more and find upcoming swaps at [www.grownyc.org/swap](http://www.grownyc.org/swap).

### September 19 - Staten Island

12pm-3pm

Sea View Hospital Community Service Building

460 Brielle Ave ([map](#))

## Events

### September 19 - [NYC SAFE Disposal Events](#) - 10am - 4pm

Safely dispose of electronics and other potentially harmful household products like batteries, paint, pesticides and medicine at the NYC Department of Sanitation's NYC SAFE events in Queens and Staten Island this month. Only NYC residential waste will be accepted (no business or institutional waste permitted). Learn more at [www.nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://www.nyc.gov/safedisposal).

Saturday, September 19 - Queens  
[Astoria Park Parking Lot](#)

**September 19** - Volunteer to help cleanup NY's beaches. [New York State Beach Cleanup](#) helps people become aware of the role they play in assuring that our shores are clean. The program engages people to remove debris from beaches and waterways, identify sources of the debris, change the condition that caused the debris, and modify the behaviors that cause pollution. [Click here](#), to find a beach cleanup locations near you.

**September 19** - Join NYC H2O, the National Park Service and the City Parks Foundation to help cleanup Plumb Beach. The cleanup will run from 9am to 12pm. Bus transportation to Plumb Beach will be provided. To register, [click here](#).

### September 19 - [Nocturnal Wildlife](#) 8:00-9:00pm

New York City is home to an amazing abundance of wildlife. From falcons and salamanders, to deer and seals; wildlife viewing is a perfect activity for any age. Rangers will guide you to the best wildlife viewing spots in New York City. As the sun sets, parks continue to be alive with energy. Get set to learn about bats, raccoons, skunks and other common nocturnal animals at the Albert H. Mauro Playground (in Flushing Meadows Corona Park), Queens.

### September 22 - Webinar: [Green Apple Day Of Service](#) - 3:30 –4:00pm

The Center for Green Schools will present resources for sustainability coordinators and teachers to bring Green Apple Day Of Service to their school, including lessons available online, independent commitments for students or small groups, and classroom and community project ideas. (*Meeting number: 715 389 621 Meeting password: Green201*)

**September 26** - [National Public Lands Day](#) (NPLD) is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Visit their [website](#) to learn resources and planning tips. If you're hosting an event [register your event](#) site or find an existing one.

**September 27** - **Back-to-School Community Day** at P.S. 216! In the garden at 350 Avenue X in Gravesend, Brooklyn, from 1-4pm. There will be lots of fun garden activities, cooking demos, chef tastings, and more!

### September 28 - Webinar: [Next Generation Science in the Garden](#) — 4:00-5:00pm

Learn how to use a garden as a meaningful context in which students can engage in next generation science and engineering practices to examine disciplinary core ideas and cross-cutting concepts.

### October 3 - [GetGreen South Bronx Earth Fest](#) - 12– 4pm

Mark your calendar for GetGreen, the South Bronx's first and only celebration of environmental awareness. Now in its eighth year, this grassroots community event draws thousands of local residents with a day full of education, activities, recycling and fun with a green theme!

**October 6** - [Walk to School Day](#): Plan for your school to participate in National Walk to School Day. [Walkbiketoschool.org](http://Walkbiketoschool.org) encourages schools to register your event – you may receive incentives.

### October 8 - Webinar: [Air Quality and Asthma Solutions: EPA's Air Quality Flag Program](#)

Do you work in a school or community where issues like asthma or obesity are a concern? Maybe you've heard of Ozone Alert Days or seen the air quality forecast on certain days change from green to yellow or orange. What do these colors mean?

### October 14 - [A Day of Climate Action Nationwide](#)

Plan or join a day of action for the climate this October. Organized by the folks who coordinated 400,000 people to attend the largest climate march in history in NYC last fall. [Click here](#) for more info.

**October 23** — The NYC Department of Environmental Protection invites you and your school to attend a performance of *City that Drinks the Mountain Sky*, an epic story of the NYC water supply system as told through masks and puppet theater with live music. Two performances will take place (10:15am and 12pm) at the BMCC Performance Arts Center. Learn more, [here](#).

### October 28 -- [Take Me Outside Day](#)

Come together with this Canadian initiative to help kids better value nature and the outdoors. Pledge to spend 1 hour outside on October 28th during the school day. [Click here](#) for more info and background materials.

## Opportunities

### Fall 2015 Made by Milk contest



Take a walk on the wild side with this semester's theme: **Animals!** The [Made by Milk contest](#) not only promotes milk consumption but it also allows students

to explore their creativity in a unique way while giving your school the chance to win up to \$5,000 in cash prizes! You can even earn extra points if your school plans to use award money for a green project. Deadline for submission is **November 15, 2015**.

### Bring sustainability into your classroom.

All K-8 teachers are invited to the Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation's (CELFF) Fall P-Credit Course: [Project Based Learning in Education for Sustainability](#). Participants will develop a thorough understanding of problem-based learning and the principles and practices of Education for Sustainability (EfS). The course provides a unique opportunity for participants to learn strategies to cultivate environmental literacy and civic responsibility while encouraging students to think about 21st century problems and solutions. This 36-hour course will be held at the United Nations International School on Saturdays, the remaining 13.5 course hours will be conducted online and through in-school visits. Click here to [register](#).

### Take the Pledge to B.Y.O



Join the many New Yorkers already living a less disposable life by carrying reusable bags, mugs and bottles.

DSNY collects more than 3 million tons of waste annually. When you use your own mug, water bottle and shopping bag, you help to significantly reduce the amount of trash that ends up in landfills or littering our streets. Take the [pledge](#) today to **Bring Your Own** mug, water bottle and shopping bag to work, to school or whenever you are on the go and receive a FREE GreenNYC promotional item, while supplies last. [Pledge Today!](#)

### TreesCount! 2015

This year, NYC Parks is counting and mapping all the beautiful street trees that grace our city, and they need your help! Sign up to become a 'volunteer' for [TreesCount!](#) 2015 and play a key role in the future of our urban forest!

If you would like to participate with your student 'volunteers', your class will be provided with all of the equipment and training materials necessary to provide an educational (and fun) activity in your community. [Register](#) for a TreesCount! 2015 application!

### Schoolyard Habitats

To help reconnect today's children to the outdoors, [National Wildlife Federation](#) assists schools in developing Schoolyard Habitat outdoor classrooms where educators and students learn how to attract and support local wildlife. These wildlife habitats become places where students not only learn about wildlife species and ecosystems, but also outdoor classrooms where they hone their academic skills and nurture their innate curiosity and creativity. To learn more, [click here](#).

### Green Classroom Professional Certificate

The [Center for Green Schools](#) proudly presents the Green Classroom Professional certificate program. The GCP certificate program provides pre K-12 educators and school staff with the knowledge to identify what supports or impedes healthy, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable learning spaces. Be one of the first 100 NYC DOE teachers to register and participate in this program for **FREE!**

### The Green Strides Webinar Series

The Green Strides Webinar Series promotes sessions offered by federal agencies and non-profit organizations that provide free tools to reduce schools' environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental education. Check out the [webinar calendar](#) for upcoming webinars.

### NYS Green Ribbon Schools Program

Receive recognition for your school's efforts at being GREEN! Apply for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) award honoring public and nonpublic early childhood, elementary, middle and high schools, that demonstrate high achievement in all three of the following areas:

- ◆ Reducing environmental impact and costs
- ◆ Improving health and wellness of schools, students and staff
- ◆ Providing effective environmental and sustainability education

Awardees receive state and national recognition, and an invitation to the national ceremony in Washington, DC. To apply, visit the [NYSED.gov](#) website.

### The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) provides access to FREE resources related to school environmental health, including materials to launch the [Air Quality Flag Program](#), a [School Indoor Air Quality Assessment app](#), a 9 lesson student curriculum for ages 9-13 called '[Recipes for Healthy Kids and a Healthy Environment](#)' and a website to download or order any EPA publication, including fact-sheets, kids activity books, and more.

If you have interested in obtaining any of these resources for your classroom or need support for your school, please contact visit the EPA [website](#) or contact Region 2 Schools Coordinator, Rebecca Ofrane, at (212) 637-4302 or [Ofrane.rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Ofrane.rebecca@epa.gov).

### Teachers Training Program

Build a school garden and integrate farm education into your classroom curriculum! [Register here!](#)

The [Battery Urban Farm \(BUF\) Teacher Training Program](#) is a two-part intensive program to train NYC public school teachers to create or expand a sustainable school garden and integrate garden activities into their school curriculum. This comprehensive program covers everything from growing your garden committee and creating a garden layout, to identifying and managing weeds and pests, soil fertility and compost, and cooking in the classroom.

Want to know more? [Download](#) the Teacher Training Info Sheet!

## Resources

### Teaching Resources

[TurfMutt: Saving the Planet One Yard at a Time](#) - TurfMutt is a science-based program featuring standards-aligned curriculum that teaches students how things grow, the value of personal and community green spaces, and how to tend to them in a sustainable way.

[Fresh and Salt Water Curriculum](#) - for teachers of grades 5-10, this free, downloadable curriculum provides an interdisciplinary approach to understanding Great Lakes and ocean literacy principles.

[Waste In Place Curriculum](#) - this K-6 classroom curriculum supplement, builds critical thinking, processing and problem-solving skills through imaginative, hands-on lessons that can be taught individually or in sequence.

[Investi-gator Science Journal](#) - this journal is for upper elementary level students. The journal focuses on contemporary, Forest Service research and is written in the format of a scientific article. Receive [free copies](#) for your class.

[Farm-to-Kindergarten Toolkit](#) - toolkit includes lesson plans, sample activities, and other resources for fitting nutrition topics into a standards-based curriculum that follows the kindergarten year thematically.

### National Grants for Educators

[Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation Grant](#)—up to \$1,500. support educators in developing environmental curricula. Deadline: *September 13*

[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.

[UNFI Foundation Organic & Sustainable Ag Grants](#) - offers grants to fund innovative new programs that support the development of healthy, sustainable foods and food practices, and the health of our planet. Letter of intent due by *September 17*

[Save On Energy \\$500 K-8 Teacher Grants](#) - \$500 for the best lesson plan energy or sustainability. Deadline: *September 18*

[Captain Planet Foundation Grant](#) – up to \$2,500. Deadline: *September 30*

[Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Grants](#) - up to \$1,000 for service-learning projects that improve schools or restore natural habitats. Deadline: *September 30*

[Target Field Trip Grants](#) - up to \$700 to fund school field trips to connect their curricula to out-of-school experiences. Deadline: *September 30*

[Elmer's Teacher Tool Kit Grant](#) - up to \$500 to replicate projects found in the Elmer's Teacher Tool Kit catalog in their own classrooms. Deadline: *September 30*

[Toshiba K-5 Math & Science Grants](#) - up to \$1,000 to help bring an innovative hands-on project into your classrooms. Deadline: *October 1*

[Herb Garden Grants](#) - up to \$200 in "seed money" to establish an outdoor herb garden. The funds may be used for supplies such as soil, plant trays, containers, child or youth sized tools, etc. HSA will provide the educational materials and herb seeds. Deadline: *October 1*

["It's All About the Fruits and Veggies" Garden Grant](#) - up to \$500. Programs will receive gardening equipment, curriculum, soil amendments, seeds, and plants to help create engaging nutrition and gardening experiences. Deadline: *October 2*

[Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant](#) - up to \$500. Funds may only be used to purchase native plants and seeds. Deadline: *October 15*

[Knowles Science Teaching Foundation Fellowships](#) - Awarded based on three criteria: the potential to develop the content knowledge needed for teaching, the potential to develop exemplary teaching practices, and the potential to develop the qualities of a teacher leader. Deadline: *November 1*

### National Competitions & Contest

[Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology](#) - Deadline: *September 22*

[Green Thumb Challenge](#) - Deadline: *September 30*

[Great American Gardeners Awards](#) - Deadline: *September 30*

[Save the Frogs! Art Contest](#) – Deadline: *October 1*

[Recycle-Bowl: K-12 School Recycling Competition](#) – Deadline: *October 13*

[Future City Competition](#) - Deadline: *October 31*

## Trash Talk...

Sanitation School Truck Routes Resumed on 9/9/2015

*Note: There is NO school truck route collection on DOE holidays throughout the school year.*

To order new decals and posters to handle the new compostable trays in your cafeteria. Please visit the following websites:

**Recycling & Garbage - Schools** <http://on.nyc.gov/schoolrecycling>

**Organics for Schools** <http://on.nyc.gov/organics-schools>

**RRResources for Schools** <http://on.nyc.gov/RRResources> - watch training videos; order free decals, signage, educational materials

Please share this information with other staff at your school.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Sustainability at [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov).

## Partner's Spotlight



The Department of Sanitation not only picks up our waste, but provides all kinds of free materials and resources to improve your recycling and organics collection programs through the [Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling](#). Here are just a few of the numerous services and resources that DSNY provides:

- ◆ Order [free materials](#) to set up your school recycling program, and to educate students, teachers, and parents
- ◆ Check out the NYC teachers' [RRResource curriculum guide](#)
- ◆ [Order](#) coloring and comic books
- ◆ Request a recycling specialist [walk-through](#)
- ◆ Check out available [field trips](#) and [tours](#) to recycling facilities in NYC
- ◆ Use the numerous videos on their website to educate in the classroom
- ◆ Show off your school's recycling programs through the [Golden Apple Awards!](#)
- ◆ Get training and supplies to [compost in the classroom](#)
- ◆ Check out the [student activities](#) on the Fun Page

## Contact Us

### Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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

Comments or suggestions or Subscribe/Unsubscribe to the newsletter: [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov)

Website: [schools.nyc.gov/sustainability](http://schools.nyc.gov/sustainability)