

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter  
November 20, 2014

[School Spotlight](#)



K179 was highlighted in UFT's November *NY Teacher*. Learn about their trip to Gateway National Recreation Area!



RCP helps schools implement model recycling programs. Applications for their spring program due December 5!

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School Spotlight



**P.S. 179 in Brooklyn**

It's not often that city kids calmly kneel before flowers and count bees and wasps. But the 21 students in science teacher and sustainability coordinator Diane Corrigan's 1st-grade class at P.S. 179 in Kensington did just that on a class trip to the Gateway National Recreation Area on Jamaica Bay in Queens on October 9. The program was featured in the November 6, 2014 issue of the [United Federation of Teachers' NY Teacher](#), highlighting NYC Eco-Schools' "Growing a Wild Brooklyn and Queens" program.

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News

- **Best of Green Schools Awards for 2014:** The Center for Green Schools is taking nominations (you can nominate yourself!) for the Best of Green Schools Awards for 2014. I know many of our schools are doing awesome and incredible sustainability programs. **Deadline for submission has been extended to November 28** (Thanksgiving weekend)! This year's categories include: K-12 School or District, Higher Ed Institution, Policy Maker (person),

Ambassador (person), Community Event, Collaboration, Student Leadership, Business Leadership, Transformation, and Moment for the Movement. Check out the [nomination form](#).

- **DEADLINE EXTENDED! Sustainability Poster Contest:** For the fourth year, the Sustainability Initiative is hosting an artwork contest, but we're changing it up this year! Students can create poster art with a CALL TO ACTION for sustainability initiatives within DOE schools. The topic can be anything within the realm of sustainability (energy, water, recycling, ecology, etc.), but must refer to an action that could be taken at school. Deadline for submissions is now **December 19!!** Check out our [website](#) for more details.



- **December 4 Sustainability Training:** Last chance to register for training! This year, 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. **Deadline to RSVP is December 1!** Click for more [details](#).
- **U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools:** This national recognition honors schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. [New York State applications](#) open today and must be submitted by **December 12**. If you are interested in applying for this honor, we may be able to help you through the application process. [Email us](#) if you're interested in the additional assistance or to let us know if you've turned in an application.
- RCP's [Spring 2015 Application](#): Applications for the Recycling Champions Program spring semester are **due December 5!** RCP is a free educational program available to any NYC public school, grades K-12, that is participating in [Organics Collection](#) from the NYC Departments of Sanitation and Education in the cafeteria, and that is struggling with school-wide recycling in classrooms and offices. As an RCP school, you'll be provided a dedicated outreach coordinator who will work collaboratively with administration, faculty, and students to bolster recycling through professional development, classroom lessons and activities, contests, free recycling bins, and more.
- On November 4th, 45 NYC teachers gathered for a beautiful day outdoors on PS 6's green roof for a professional development workshop to learn about how schools can develop outdoor classrooms that attract and support local wildlife while meeting educational standards in ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Art. The workshop was led by NYC Eco-Schools, Community Greenways Collaborative, Butterfly Project NYC/City Parks Foundation, and Grow to Learn. Teachers enjoyed hands-on activities outside including building insect hotels from natural materials and found objects. Check out [pictures](#) from the event!

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# Events

- **December 4:** Sustainability Initiative Advanced Training. Learn more and register [here](#).
- **January 23-24, 2015:** [Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education Annual Conference](#)- Less than two months away! Early Bird discount ends December 24.
- **March 1-2, 2015:** The [International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit](#) is coming to NYC. For ages 5 to 25, the summit empowers youth to take what they know and put it into action.
- **March 4-7, 2015:** Now's the [time to register](#) for the 5th annual [Green Schools National Conference](#). Early Bird rates mean great savings, and you'll be ahead of the pack when choosing pre- and post-conference workshops and events. Register TODAY for Early Bird Rates and Great Savings.

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# Opportunities

- **2014 Wangari Maathai Award - Now Accepting Applications!** –The Maathai Award for Civic Participation in Sustainability, inaugurated by The Rockefeller Foundation, The Bette Midler Family Trust, and MillionTreesNYC, is an annual \$10,000 cash award granted to two New York City public high school seniors graduating in the 2014-2015 school year. The award was established in honor of Dr. Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize (2004), a visionary environmentalist, and founder of the Green Belt Movement, a tree-planting campaign to promote sustainable development, woman's empowerment, and democracy in Kenya. It is administered by the Municipal Art Society of New York. Learn more and submit an online application at [http://www.millontreesnyc.org/html/educate/maathai\\_scholarship.shtml](http://www.millontreesnyc.org/html/educate/maathai_scholarship.shtml). Applications are **due by 5:00pm EST on January 16th, 2015**.
- **DOE Environmental Study Center Programs:** For more information please email [esc@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:esc@schools.nyc.gov)
  - **Program 1 Hydroponics** - Beginning 2/1/15, six sessions (over the course of 8 weeks) that includes everything from set-up of the hydroponic systems, seed propagation, data collection, analysis and harvest. These classes will be held on either Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10 am- 1pm. Cost - \$300.00
  - [Plants, Pollinators and People 2014-15 Teacher Professional Learning Institute](#) (K-2 Teachers) - During this three-day professional learning institute, grades K-2 teachers will explore the interactions of plants, pollinators, and people. Teachers will receive a free class trip voucher for their class to experience the Incredible Insects program at the Environmental Study Center as an extension of their professional learning. Dates (participants must attend all three days): December 20, January 10, and March 28, 9:00am – 3:00pm at Environmental Study Center, 7151 Avenue T, Brooklyn, NY 11234
- **Event Internship Openings.** Just Food is seeking Event Interns to assist with the planning, management, and implementation of the Just Food Conference 2015 from December through April. Learn more [here](#).
- **NWF's Young Reporters for the Environment National Competition:** Youth between the ages of 13 and 21 are invited to participate in NWF's [Young Reporters for the Environment](#) national competition. Participants investigate an environmental issue and report on it in writing, photography, or video. Entries must be relevant to participants' local community, connect to a global perspective, include possible solutions, and be disseminated to an appropriate target audience. First place winners in each category will continue to the international competition. Submissions are **due by Friday, March 13, 2015, 12:00pm (EST)**.

- **Free Professional Development Throughout the Year:** Check out the Office of School Wellness [online catalog](#) here. Create your own professional development plan and make it part of wider school wellness action plans.
- [Webinar: Outdoor Classroom Management](#) - Thursday, Jan 15, 2015, 4:00-5:00pm
- Other National Contests and Awards:
  - [Best of Green Schools award](#) - Nominations due November 28!
  - [National Science Teachers Association Awards](#) – Multiple deadlines (most are November 30)
  - [Real World Design Challenge](#) – Teams register by December 1
  - [Beneath the Waves Youth Making Ripples Film Competition](#) – Deadline December 5
  - [Lexus Eco Challenge](#) – Deadline December 8
  - [NSTA-Shell Science Lab Challenge](#) – Deadline December 19
  - [Ocean Pals Poster Contest](#) – Deadline December 22

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## Resources

- [National Gardening Association's 2015 Youth Garden Grant](#) – Deadline December 5
- [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
- [Click here for a list of additional grant opportunities](#) compiled by NYC Eco-Schools.

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## Partner Spotlight



Since 2010, GrowNYC's Recycling Champions Program (RCP) has been implementing model recycling programs and developing best practices at schools throughout NYC by working hands-on with administration, faculty, students, custodians, and parents. RCP is a program of GrowNYC, a nonprofit organization, conducted in partnership with the NYC Department of Education (DOE) Division of School Facilities and Office of Sustainability, and the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY).

RCP aims to empower schools to comply with, and exceed, NYC's recycling laws. In the process RCP engages students in responsible habits and action, and provides opportunities for environmental stewardship, public scholarship, and a platform for learning in STEM. The best practices developed at RCP schools are collated into resources that are available to every NYC school at [www.grownyc.org/rcp](http://www.grownyc.org/rcp). *Is your school a recycling champion?*



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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)

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

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

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