



April means Earth Month! What are you doing to celebrate?

March 23, 2016

April is Earth Month, this is the time of year to make little changes that can help our planet in a big way! There are plenty of ways to get involved – how will you, your students and your staff take part this year? You can start by getting the word out, then coordinate an event at your school or implement current environmental concerns through a blend of curriculum, discussion, and engaging hands-on projects.

Once you've decided how you plan on celebrating Earth Month, let us know! Our Sustainability Team would love to join you and your students. [Check out](#) what schools did last year to celebrate Earth month/day. Here are some other fun filled activities you can do in your school:

Coordinate “A-Weigh-The-Waste Week” at School:

Weigh the cafeteria waste during one week. Announce the results at an assembly and challenge the school to cut it by 25% the next week. (Take what you want, but eat what you take).

Organize A “Where Is Away?” Assembly:

Ask the kids to carry all their non-recyclable waste with them for a day. Then empty it all on a tarp in the auditorium for a special assembly. Discuss how much waste each student in every school creates each day and ask what it means when you “throw something away?” What is “away?”

100 Sheets of Paper Challenge:

Challenge each teacher and classroom to limit paper usage to 100 fresh sheets of paper for a week or for the whole month.

Natural Lighting Challenge:

Challenge each teacher and classroom to limit paper usage to 100 fresh sheets of paper for a week or for the whole month.

Plant Trees or A Garden For Your School:

If you have space on campus, your own garden is a great way to produce organic food for the students or the cafeteria.

- GrowNYC is hosting it's [Annual Spring Plant Sale](#) with affordable perennial and annual flowering plants, herbs and vegetables.
- NYC Eco-Schools is partnering with [Seedles](#) to give away over 100 FREE "Classroom Superhero Kits" to teachers who want to create pollinator gardens in their schools and communities. Register [here](#) to receive your classroom's kit.

Create an “Eco Bowl”:

Does your school have a Spelling Bee or a GEO Bowl? How about an Eco Bowl? Ask the whole school to submit eco facts, divide the students into teams, and see who knows the most!

More!

Wear Green, watch a slide show or movie, invite a speaker, create art, or celebrate your person of the day, month or week!

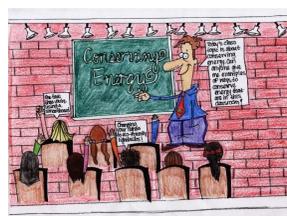
Want more? Check out this [website](#), for more fun filled [Community and Classrooms projects](#) you can do for Earth Month.

Updates

There's still time... Encourage your students to enter the Sustainability Poster Contest

For the fifth year, NYC DOE is conducting an Energy Conservation Artwork Contest. Students should create a poster with a CALL TO ACTION in regards to energy conservation. This competition is open to all NYC DOE schools from all grade levels (K-12). The goal of the contest is to create a dialogue and encourage students, teachers, administrative staff and parents to save energy through art.

Deadline for submissions is **April 1, 2016**. Check out our [website](#) for more details.



Career Opportunities in the Office of Sustainability

[Zero Waste Coordinator](#)

The Office of Sustainability is seeking 2 Zero Waste Coordinators. Each will provide technical support and guidance on program implementation and operation to DOE staff including custodians, district/central headquarters staff and school administrators in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-850 and Local Law 40/41 (Recycling Law.)

Sustainability Advanced Training

We're please to announce that the next Sustainability Advance Training will be held on **Friday, May 27th** at the UFT Headquarters. This will be an all day event, lunch will be provided. Please mark your calendar! Registration will begin in April. Please be on the look out for an email from the Office of Sustainability regarding registration.

Events



March 24 - Workshop: All About Planting - 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Dig in to the basics of planting, both indoors and outside. In this free two-hour workshop, you'll learn techniques to engage students in planting activities, such as seed starts, plant starts, and transplanting. Explore Edible Schoolyard NYC's lessons that focus on planting while remaining rooted in academic context. To attend this workshop you must [register here](#). This event is open to all educators.

March 24 - STEM Resources: Sustainability Coordinator Gathering - 4pm to 6pm

Join NYC Eco-Schools and GrowNYC Recycling Champions at NYC Eco-School and Recycling Champions school P.S. 16R (80 Monroe Avenue, Staten Island) for a special [STEM-focused Sustainability Coordinator Gathering!](#) Come and hear from our guest about their STEM-focused program offerings for students and their outlook on the future of STEM education in New York City.

March 31- Workshop: Cooking with Kids 101 - 4:30 to 6:30

In this free two-hour workshop, you'll learn how to set up your classroom for safe, fun, and educational cooking activities with your students. What equipment do you need and what can you do without? How can kids use knives and heat safely? Practice some of Edible Schoolyard NYC's teaching techniques by cooking a seasonal recipe with the class. To attend this workshop you must [register here](#). This event is open to all educators.

March 31 - Edible Schoolyard NYC Showcase School Visit

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please feel free to sign up! [Registration](#) is free.

March 31– April 1—Green Schools Conference & Expo—Pittsburgh, PA

The Green Schools Conference & Expo brings together green schools thought leaders and champions, connecting educators, school administrators, elected officials, and nonprofit and corporate partners to advance the shared mission of green schools for all. [Register here](#).

April 21 - Brooklyn Sustainability Coordinator Gathering: Celebrating Greenpoint - 4-6pm

Meet NWF Sustainability Coaches Fran Agnone (PS 110), Ali Schuettinger (PS 31), Fai Walker (MS 126) and Tina Wong-Hodgson (PS 34) and learn about the incredible sustainability initiatives they're working on with teacher teams, students, parents, and community members at their respective schools. [RSVP here](#) or contact fanoe@nwf.org, (646) 502-7096.

April 22 - Earth Day!

April 24 - Arbor Day

April 30 - Spring Soil Health - 10am to noon

Spring is here and it's time to prep for the upcoming growing season! Join QBG Farm staff to learn how to grow healthy plants and care for your soil. We'll discuss soil testing, cover crops, compost application, and growing season planning tips. [Register here](#).

May 7 - I Love My Park Day

Volunteer by pitching in to help get your favorite state park ready for the summer season. Visit the [Park & Trails website](#) for the list of parks near you and to register!

May 13 -14 - 4th Annual International Young Environmentalist Youth Summit (IYEYS)

Join over 140 young environmentalists at the IYEYS. Powered by Greening Forward, the IYEYS is a conference by the youth for the youth who aspire to start global organizations. This conference will equip students with the leadership skills necessary for them to create campaigns that will reduce waste, address climate change, advocate for green and wild spaces, and more. Want to know more? [Click here](#)

May 30 - It's My Estuary Day - 9am - 4pm

[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! Events will include a coastal clean-up, tables representing environmental organizations, demonstrations of water chemistry techniques, oyster monitoring projects, underwater robotics, diving demonstrations, and eco-chats with scientists and much.

Opportunities



Carton 2 Garden Contest

This 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. Contest **submissions are due April 13** so get [registered today](#) for your entry kit and start planning!

EPA now accepting applications for locally-focused EE projects

The application period for the 2016 Environmental Education (EE) Grants Program is now open! EPA is looking to support locally-focused EE projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues. Applications are due by April 8, 2016, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. To learn more and register visit www.epa.gov

Free Trees for Arbor Day

Grow-Out Nursery at John Bowne HS is giving away free Arbor Day trees! If you would like to order trees for your school, park, community garden or center, contact:

Nancy Wolf, Arbor Day Project Coordinator
(718) 834-4589 jlwolfinc@aol.com

Please submit your orders by **April 12th, 2016**.

GrowNYC's 2016 Annual Spring Plant Sale

Every year, GrowNYC holds their [Annual Spring Plant Sale](#) in order to provide community groups with affordable perennial and annual flowering plants, herbs, ground covers, and vegetables grown by Greenmarket farmers and sold in wholesale quantities. Plants are for neighborhood open space projects only (e.g. community gardens, schools, block associations, churches, etc.) and may be sold to raise other funds.

GrowNYC offers an [online order form](#) and strongly prefers that you use it to submit your order. Orders are due by **Friday April 1st**.

Oysters, Alewife and Eels... Oh My! Contest

The Bronx River Alliance is looking for creative students to illustrate the cover artwork for the new Bronx River Aquatic Wildlife Monitoring How-To-Guide created by NYC Parks Natural Resources Group. Deadline **May 24, 2016**.

Check out more of the Contest details [here!](#)

[Pure Food Kids](#) offers FREE food education workshops for 4th and 5th grade students in the Seattle & New York City metro areas. In the workshops, kids learn to become Food Detectives through label reading and cooking. They leave the workshop ready to make savvy food decisions for themselves and their families.