

# Sustainability Initiative Newsletter



The **NYC DOE**  
Sustainability Initiative

## News

*January 11, 2016*

### P.S. 130's Green Steps towards a Sustainable World



The students at P.S. 130 Hernando De Soto School in Lower Manhattan, has been on a clear path to Zero Waste. In addition, to their regular recycling program of waste and organic collections, they have been participating in the Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge since November 15, which is also, [America Recycles Day](#).

P.S. 130 is competing in the 2015-2016 Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge against hundreds of schools nationwide. The goal of the challenge is to recycle the most plastic film before Earth Day 2016! Trex uses more than 1.5 billion plastic bags to make its outdoor living products each year, keeping this material out of landfills locally and across the country.

“We strongly believe that this is an important step we need to take to help protect our environment and educate our children to become environmentally-minded.” said Ms. Wenmin Nicklas, P.S. 130’s Sustainability Coordinator. “Ever since our principal, Mr. Fong announced our participation in the Trex School Recycling Challenge, our students, teachers, and families have been actively recycling from homes and classrooms any dry, clean food storage bags, newspaper sleeves, shopping bags, bread bags, cereal liners, dry-cleaning bags, grocery bags, package wraps and so on.” So far P.S. 130 has recycled 170 pounds of plastic film! Parents have been taking turns to deliver the collection of recycled plastic bags to the Whole Foods. We’re having fun while learning about the importance of recycling! said Ms. Nicklas.



Inside this issue:

<a href="#">News</a>
<a href="#">Updates</a>
<a href="#">Opportunities</a>
<a href="#">Resources</a>
<a href="#">Contact Info</a>

### Made By Milk™ Construction contest winner!



John F. Kennedy Jr. School in Elmhurst, Queens won in the High School division of the Fall 2015 Made by Milk contest. The Made By Milk contest encourages students to build strong bones with milk and flex their creative muscles by repurposing milk cartons. The contest theme for Fall 2015 was “Animals” – with entries ranging from a life-sized bronco to a complete underwater diorama. In addition, to JFK High School’s entry of Cecil The Lion created by The Extreme Green Team, seven other DOE school also entered the contest, Check out the creativity in these contest entries below.



**P4k@81**  
Saving Nemo  
Team name: DeKalb Mighty Builders



**P.S. 36 Unionport**  
Leonardo the Lion  
Team name:  
P.S. 36 Green Team



**Hunter's Point  
Community Middle School**  
Sandshark: The Hunter of Hunter's Point  
Team name: Community Arts



**P4K@843**  
Monkeying Around P4  
Team name: P4 Kids



**P.S. 176—The Cambria Heights Schools**  
Nature at its Milkiest  
Team name: The Milkateers



**P.S. 376**  
Awesome Ocelot  
Team name: Planet Keepers



**P.S. 37 R**  
Shea the Husky  
Team Name: Y-20

The next Made By Milk Construction Contest will take place in Spring 2016. For more information and to view all entries, visit [www.madebymilkcontest.com](http://www.madebymilkcontest.com)

## News



**Second Chance Toys** was founded to rescue and reuse plastic toys for children in need by donating them to community organizations. Because non biodegradable plastic is kept out of our landfills, Second Chance Toys also helps the environment at the same time.

Twice yearly (Holiday Season & Earth Day), unwanted plastic toys are rescued and donated to organizations that care for children in need. The toys can enhance a child's development by helping promote socialization, creativity, emotional security, motor skills, and learning.

Visit their [website](#) to sign up as a collector, donor, or recipient of toys. There you will find resources and educational materials to help with your program.

### Free Environmental Education Materials from the EPA



Free Environmental Education Materials from the EPA: The National Service Center for Environmental Publications offers materials grouped by grade range (K-3, K-12, elementary school, middle school, high school, and general information for teachers). Resources include activity books, calendars, posters, and science fair activities in waste management, indoor air quality, wetland protection, and environmental science. Check out the [order forms](#) and submit a request today!

## Events

### January 16 — Electronics Recycling Collection – 10am—4pm

Responsibly recycle unwanted or broken electronics (no appliances such as microwaves or refrigerators) with the Lower East Side Ecology Center at the Holy Name of Jesus. [Learn more.](#)

Upper West Side, Manhattan

Amsterdam Avenue b/t W 96th & 97th Sts

### January 18—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service: Coastal Cleanup—10am—1pm

Volunteer with the Stewardship Team at Idlewild Park on Martin Luther King Jr. Day! Volunteers will help protect and maintain the wetlands of Idlewild Park by removing floatable debris. Volunteers will be trained in removal and cleanup techniques. Space is limited and registration is required. [Register online](#)

### January 27— Activist New York Educator Resource Guide Launch and Celebration - 5:00p

Join [The Museum of the City of New York](#) to celebrate the release of their newly published Activist New York Educator Resource Guide, inspired by the groundbreaking exhibition, Activist New York. The exhibition explores the drama of social activism in rights, immigration activism, environmental activism, and labor activism, as well as lesson plans and primary sources for the classroom. Light refreshments will be served. Register [here](#).

### February 1, 2016—[National Green Week 2016](#)

Join the largest K-12 sustainability education movement going by signing up for National Green Week 2016! 'Green Week' kicks off February 1 and lasts through April 30, 2016. Participating districts, schools, classrooms or youth groups choose a week, then select from GEF's [sustainability focused programs](#) to be their 'green theme.' Submit your program or project for a Green in Action Award (optional) prizes include \$250 for your class or school.

### February 2, 2016— [Bronx River Alliance 2016 Winter Assembly](#)—6pm

Celebrate the Bronx River! Share your ideas, activities, and connect with others who are active on the river. Whether you're a long-time partner, individual, organization, advocate or someone who would just like to learn more about the community of people who are bringing back an urban river, the Assembly is a great opportunity to connect (or re-connect) with the people who make it happen. Light refreshments will be served.

### February 13-15 — Celebrate Food with NYBG during Culinary Kids Weekend!

Join NYBG for a weekend celebrating the relationships among plants, farms, and your favorite foods. Family Garden staff will offer cooking demonstrations, recipes, and hands-on activities, with plenty of music and tastings. Tinker with the science of kitchen chemistry and get to the root of foods at a variety of activity stations. Cooking demonstrations at 1 p.m. feature kid-friendly recipes. Learn more [here!](#)

### February 14, 2016 — Winter Tree ID—11am—12:30pm

This hike will strengthen your winter tree ID skills as you learn about different characteristics and traits to look for, in order to identify trees without their leaves. This free event takes place at the Kissena Park includes many unique trees as well, being the site of the Samuel Parsons nursery. To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

Free Webinars: The [Green Strides Webinar Series](#) provides school communities the tools to reduce their schools' environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental education. It provides all schools access to the resources that help them move toward the Pillars of our U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition award.

## Opportunities

### 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](#).

### The Green Strides Webinar Series

The Green Strides Webinar Series promotes sessions offered by federal agencies and nonprofit 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.

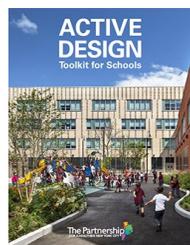
### Green Design Lab Energy Challenge

During this 4 month challenge – December through March – the whole school community works together to save electricity and reduce the school's greenhouse gas footprint. Solar One works with Con Edison to collect data from your school's electrical meter. Solar One looks at the total amount of electrical consumption for the 4 month period and compares it to the previous two year's consumption. You will be sent monthly updates to see the results of your energy saving efforts. The top five energy saving schools will receive cash prizes of \$5,000!

To register for the Energy Challenge please fill out [this form](#). Once you have registered for the challenge you will additional information via email on the procedures and resources to help you achieve the greatest savings!

### Active Design in Schools Toolkit

There are many creative ways, both large and small, to foster physical activity in and around schools. You—as a part of the school community—can help re-design spaces in and around your school to encourage physical activity and healthy eating as a part of daily life. This Active Design Toolkit for Schools provides ideas and resources to incorporate active design into your school. Many of the ideas presented are simple, but have immense potential to improve the overall success, health and well-being of our City's students. Sign up for a copy of the toolkit [here!](#)



### Active Design in Schools Grant

Active Design in Schools is offering a grant opportunity for K-12 Schools in NYC. The goal of this grant is to catalyze active design enhancements in schools to promote physical activity and healthy living among students and the school community. This grant is administered by The Citizens Committee for New York City in collaboration with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene with support from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Partnerships to Improve Community Health grant. They will award **20 grants of \$4,000 each** to support active design projects in schools.

[Click here](#) for an applications. Applications are due on **Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**

To learn more about Active Design in Schools and this grant opportunity, please register for the upcoming training or WebEx:

**Active Design in Schools Training** Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> - [Register Here](#)

**Active Design in Schools WebEx** (for those who cannot attend the training) Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 11:00am (EST) - [Register Here](#)

### Wangari Maathai Student Award



The Maathai Award for Civic Participation in Sustainability, sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, The Bette Midler Family Trust, and MillionTreesNYC, is a \$10,000 cash award granted to two New York City public high school seniors graduating in the 2015-2016 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. Submit the [online application](#) by 5:00pm EST on **January 15**.

### 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. The best use of cartons in the school garden can win a prize valued up to \$2,500 for building or enhancing the garden. Contest **submissions are due April 13** so get [registered today](#) for your entry kit and start planning! Be one of the **first 100** schools to submit your entry and receive a \$30 gift card to the Gardening With Kids Shop!

### 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 Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 5 P.M. EST**. To learn more [click here!](#)

### Free Professional Development

The Office of School Wellness is offering free Professional Development (PD) throughout the 2015-16 school 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.

### 2016 Water Resources Art & Poetry Contest

DEP's 30th Annual Water Resources Art & Poetry Contest: Second through 12th 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 deadline for submitting entries to DEP is **March 4, 2016**.

### 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.

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

## 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.

New [Scholastic Every Kid in the Park materials](#) are now available! Designed for both teachers and parents to help educate students on the benefits, purpose and value of federal lands and waters with materials that connect with topics areas in English, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science.

[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.

[FIRST LEGO League TRASH TREK Challenge](#) - teams of up to 10 students will choose and solve a real-world trash problem as their Project. Teams will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a series of sustainability-themed missions.

### National Grants for Educators

#### [The Captain Planet Foundation Mini-Grant](#)

The Captain Planet Foundation is accepting the next round of applications for small grants totaling \$500-\$2500. Grant activities must be project-based, performed by youth, and have real environmental outcomes. Deadline **January 31, 2016**

[The Awesome Foundation](#)— awards \$1,000 grants every month for unique and creative ideas!

#### [Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching](#)

This award recognizes one full-time K-8 teacher for leadership and innovation in Earth science education. The winner receives a \$2,500 prize and a grant to attend the National Science Teachers Association Annual Conference. Apply by **January 20, 2016**.

#### [Let It Grow Contest & Grant](#)

The Nutrients for Life Foundation provides information and resources to educators and the public about the vital role fertilizers play in feeding our world. The Foundation's "Let It Grow Contest" invites teachers and community adults to vote daily for a school of their choice to win a \$5,000 agricultural grant, Nutrients For Life Foundation prize pack and more. Deadline: **March 7, 2016**

### National Competitions & Contest

#### [Visualizing My Earth Challenge](#)

This contest, from the American Geosciences Institute and the Center for Geoscience and Society, challenges students ages 14 and up to submit visual representations of natural phenomena from a geoscience perspective. Winners will receive cash prizes. Deadline: **January 16, 2016**

#### [MathMovesU Scholarships for Science Camps](#)

Each year, the MathMovesU program awards 150 middle school students nationwide \$1,000 scholarships to attend math and science camps and programs, or to save the money for college. Raytheon also donates a \$1,000 matching grant to each winning student's school. Deadline: **February 6, 2015**

#### [Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant Competition](#)

InvenTeams composed of high school students, teachers and mentors are asked to collaboratively identify a problem that they want to solve, research the problem, and then develop a prototype invention as an in-class or extracurricular project. The maximum grant award is \$10,000. Deadline: **March 7, 2016**

### 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)