

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter



The NYC DOE
Sustainability Initiative

February 1, 2016

Updates

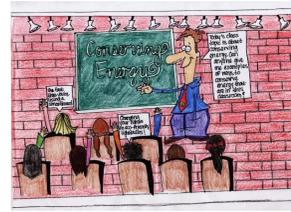
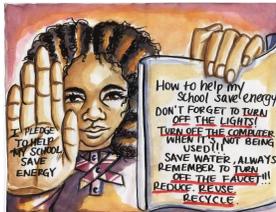
Inside this issue:

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Updates |
| Events |
| Opportunities |
| Resources |
| Trash Talk |
| Contact Info |

- 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**

- [Deputy Director of Sustainability \(Operations\)](#)**

The Deputy Director of Sustainability (Operations), will support operations, processes, procurement, budgets and initiatives related to citywide sustainability programs and goals. The Deputy Director of Sustainability will also work with the Deputy Director of Sustainability (Energy), and focus on operations and waste-related programs that enhance the Office of Sustainability team.

- [Zero Waste Program Manager](#)**

The Office of Sustainability is seeking a Zero Waste Program Manager to oversee and direct the new Zero Waste initiative for the DOE, including the first year of the Zero Waste Schools Program. S/he will provide technical support and policy guidance on program implementation and operations to DOE staff.

- [Zero Waste Coordinators](#)**

The Office of Sustainability is seeking 5 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.)

Events

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

Join the largest K-12 sustainability education movement going by signing up for National Green Week 2014! '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—[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 7—[Watershed Relief Map Presentation- 1 p.m. @ Queens Museum](#)

Come see a 3D map of the city's water system, created 40 years ago and hear about its story from NYC H2O Director Matt Malina. A question and answer session will follow with Bryan Diffley and Peter DiSpensa, two civil engineers who worked on the water system. The Queens Museum also has a scale model of the entire city that is not to be missed. This event is free [RSVP here](#).

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 — [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 Kisen Park includes many unique trees as well, being the site of the Samuel Parsons nursery. To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

February 20— [Bronx Speaks Up](#) — 11am-3:30pm

Lehman College • Bedford Park Boulevard

Stop by our Bronx Parks Speak Up table for free tip sheets, pamphlets, and workshop schedules designed to help gardeners increase their gardening expertise. Experts will be on hand to answer gardening questions.

Events

February 24—Eco-Schools Sustainability Coordinator Gathering — 4-6pm

Join NYC Eco-Schools for the first Sustainability Coordinator Gathering of 2016 at PS 69 (77-02 37th Avenue, Jackson Heights, Queens) Come and be inspired by the many incredible sustainability initiatives that SAPIS Counselor Pallavi and her students are undertaking throughout the school and community! Catered Indian snacks will be provided! This is a free event and open to educators from across NYC. [Click here](#) to RSVP. Only 50 spots available!

February 27 — Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop — 11am—1:30pm

Drew Garden • East Tremont Ave, Bronx, NY

Learn why fruit trees need annual pruning for best production. Discover and practice how to prune the different types of fruit trees at the ideal time of year, in late winter.

March 19– NY Health and Sustainability Learning Expo– 10am –2pm

This is a day of fun & learning for kids and adults, showcasing businesses that support actions which teach children to be ambassadors of healthy living & sustainability. This event is to be held at the Marriot Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St Brooklyn NY 11201. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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](#).

Compost at Greenmarkets

Help promote organics diversion for composting in New York City at select Greenmarkets. Every week, food scraps are collected from neighborhood residents and transported to local compost sites for processing. Volunteers are needed to help Compost Coordinators manage busy food scrap drop-off locations by helping participants navigate the drop-off, conducting outreach, and conducting some physical work to manage the site. Sign up [here](#) for one or more events:

Opportunities

Gardening 101: Creating a Garden

Designed to provide teachers with all of the tools and skills for advocating, planning, preparing, and building a school garden. This Institute is a necessity to create or revive a garden at your school. Participants may earn "P" in-service credits from the New York City Department of Education or up to 175 hours for State License requirements.

February 15-20, 2016 9:00am – 4:00pm

Cost: \$200* (includes curriculum materials, reproducible handouts, and plants)

For an application or more information, email teachered@nybg.org or call 718.817.8140

Registration deadline: **February 12, 2016**

Water, Energy and Waste: Integrating Themes of Sustainability into your Classroom.

This course offers K-8 science and classroom teachers the unique opportunity to delve deeper into global environmental issues on a local level. Situated within the novel setting of a NY Sun Works sustainable rooftop hydroponic urban farm/Greenhouse Classroom, this course allows teachers to learn more about current environmental concerns through a blend of technology, discussion, and engaging hands-on projects.

March 6 -April 16 2016

Saturdays 8:30am - 3:30pm

Participating teachers will receive 3 professional credits for the course, which can be applied to the NYS 175 hour professional development requirement. To apply go to the current [ASDPD course catalog](#).

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!](#)

Opportunities

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 12th 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 14th - [Register Here](#)

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

Carton 2 Garden Contest



This contest highlights students' creativity by repurposing 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!

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. Deadline **May 24, 2016**

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

Digging Deeper: Edible Schoolyard NYC Spring Training Intensive Course

Edible Schoolyard is pleased to announce that applications are open for their **free** spring intensive workshop series taking place on six Thursdays, starting in late February through early April, at P.S.7 in Harlem, 4:30 to 6:30. Participants who attend all six sessions will receive free garden supplies and site visits from the Edible Schoolyard NYC garden manager and director of education. For more information, and to apply, please click [here](#). Applications due by Tuesday, **February 2, 2016**

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. To schedule a workshop, [click here](#) or visit www.purefoodkids.org

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.

Resources

[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.

[School Garden Seeds Donation](#)

Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply's School Garden Program is currently taking applications! They will be giving out several hundred seed boxes to school gardens on a first come, first serve basis! Each seed box donation will include a wide assortment of certified organic, non-GMO Peaceful Valley brand seed packs. To apply, completed this [application](#).

National Grants for Educators

[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**

[Kars4Kids Small Grant Program](#)

The Kars4Kids Small Grant Program is dedicated to supporting educational initiatives around the world. They accept submissions directly from organizations and from individuals on behalf of charities they recommend. Grants typically range from \$500-\$2,000

National Competitions & Contest

[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**

Trash Talk

Before You Toss Holiday Leftovers

Entering the New Year with an excess of holiday leftovers? Before you compost or toss it, check out www.stilltasty.com, the self-proclaimed "ultimate guide to shelf life." This handy resource answers questions on food safety, provides a searchable database of shelf-life information on fresh, frozen, unopened and opened foods, and has other tips to help you save money and stay safe while reducing food waste.

School Recycling Materials

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) has created materials to assist and encourage NYC residents, agencies, and schools to recycle, compost, and prevent waste. [Click here](#), to order school posters, decals and other recycling materials for your school.

Getting NYC Organics Collection? New food scrap decals are available, too. [Click here](#) to order decals for Organic schools.



Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

Submissions for Newsletter/Spotlights: nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov

Comments or suggestions or Subscribe/Unsubscribe to the newsletter: sustainability@schools.nyc.gov

Website: schools.nyc.gov/sustainability