

# Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

## News

November 3, 2015

### First 'Net Zero' School



In 2012 the Department of Education, announced that P.S. 62 in Staten Island will be the first 'Net Zero' school in the state of New York. On September 10, the Katherine Grimm School of Leadership and Sustainability, named after a former Deputy Chancellor, opened their classroom doors.

Housed in a brand-new, uniquely designed 68,000-square-foot building the classrooms, which will eventually house 444 students in pre-K through fifth grade, were built with windows facing directions that will catch the most sunlight and avoid excessive use of electric lights. The ceilings are shaped to push sunlight into the rooms and the walls are insulated so it lets very little air out. With a host of additional 'green' features like motion-sensor energy-efficient indoor lighting, and a precast concrete building envelope which acts as a rain screen, the school will save 50 percent less energy than a typical school building.

The school building will also serve as an hands-on learning laboratory for its students, allowing educators to integrate their surroundings into lessons about sustainability, innovation and the importance of preserving and protecting our environment. Students will also contribute directly through physical exercise by riding stationary bicycles that actually produce energy for the building. Outdoor gardens and a greenhouse in the second-floor courtyard will produce food for the cafeteria, not only helping children make healthy food choices but also teaching them about life cycles in nature.

In addition to its regular classrooms and sustainability nodes, the Kathleen Grimm School features art and music facilities, a science lab, gymnasium, a library, an outdoor playground, a running track and pathways around the property that encourage walking and feature displays that teach students about the environment.



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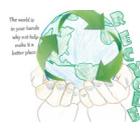
[Trash Talk](#)

**SORT2SAVE** Create a culture of zero waste in your cafeteria and make change fun! The folks at [Cafeteria Culture](#) (CafCu) have developed the first SORT2save how-to video. The [SORT2save video](#) is a fun and easy way to teach students and staff how to correctly sort food scraps and packaging in their school's cafeteria. View the video [here](#) and be sure to share it with friends, teachers, and everyone in your school's building!

Also, stay tuned for CafCu's SORT2save Kit, which will include: "how to" training videos; resources needed to seamlessly implement a student-led Cafeteria Ranger (monitor) program and much more!

### 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](#).



### A Green Design Manual For Teachers

[GrowNYC's Environmental Education Program](#) is proud to announce the publication of [Green Design for Students](#), a manual of all of the major environmental and infrastructure issues that impact our daily lives, such as energy consumption, water treatment, agriculture, waste management, and sustainable construction, written specifically for Grades 7-12. The manual is designed to augment the common core curriculum and provide exposure to critical real-world issues that are frequently overlooked in a standard lesson plan. We encourage teachers to use and share the Green Design manual and help educate future generations about these pressing issues. [Click here](#) to access the manual.

## Updates

- **Sustainability Initiative Trainings:** Unfortunately, the date for the Advance Sustainability Training has been **CANCELED** until further notice, therefore, registration will not open. However, we plan to schedule a training for the new year. Sorry for the inconvenience.
- **Career Opportunities in the Office of Sustainability**  
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

### November 3 — STEM 4th Annual Career Day

High School students interested in learning more about careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), are invited to learn first-hand about career pathways in these fields

### November 15 — [America Recycles Day](#)

America Recycles Day promotes and celebrates recycling. This year's America Recycles Day theme, "Bathroom, Bags, and Gadgets," focuses on bathroom products, plastic bags, and electronics recycling to educate on some of the less commonly recycled products. Get [ideas](#) and [register](#) your event.

### November 20 — [Bringing Back New York's Oysters](#)

Oysters are miniature, aquatic vacuum cleaners that feed by efficiently filtering the water that flows through them. Come hear Pete Malinowsky--Director of The Billion Oyster Project--speak about how planting oyster beds all over NY Harbor helps restore its ecosystem. Tickets are free but reservations are required. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

### 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).

**November 14**— Brooklyn  
12am-3pm, PS 75 Mayda Cortiella  
95 Grove St, (enter on Evergreen Ave),  
Bushwick ([map](#)) ([flier](#))

**November 15** - Manhattan  
11am-2pm, Two Bridges Tower  
82 Rutgers Slips ([map](#)) ([flier](#))

## Opportunities

Edible Schoolyard NYC is pleased to announce free cooking workshops for fall! Click the link to register:

- ◆ [Cooking and Learning with Kids-- Dominican Harvest Soup Edition](#)  
**Thursday, November 12, 4:30-6:00p**  
Come make Dominican-inspired harvest soup. Learn ways to make cooking with kids safe, fun and educational. Use Edible Schoolyard NYC lessons to reinforce literacy, math, science and social studies while cooking health and delicious food.

### Grow To Learn Mini Grants

GrowNYC, NYC Department of Education and NYC Park's GreenThumb Division are happy to announce that Grow to Learn is currently accepting applications for Mini-Grants of \$500 to \$2,000 to start or expand a learning garden program at NYC public and charter schools. Grow to Learn Garden Grants are funded in part by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York and Green Mountain Energy Company. Grant applications are due on **Monday, November 9th**. [Click here](#) for the application. .

Join New York Sun Works on for the fall session of **Water, Energy, and Waste: Integrating Themes of Sustainability into Your Classroom** offers K-8 science and classroom teachers the unique opportunity to delve deeper into global environmental issues on a local level. This course has been approved by the DOE After School Professional Development Program (ASDP) and may be counted for three "P" Credits. The dates for this course run on select Saturdays until December 5th from 8:30am – 3:30pm [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Healthy Communities Garden Grant: Farm-to-School program

The New York State Department of Health

announced \$6.7 million in grants to 26 organizations statewide to help increase access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity in high need communities. The program will make \$350,000 in grants available to school districts for capacity-building to procure and serve locally produced foods on school menus. For more information on this program, visit [http://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2015/2015-07-10\\_initiatives\\_local\\_growers\\_producers.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2015/2015-07-10_initiatives_local_growers_producers.htm)

### International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest

The U.S. Composting Council is accepting submissions for its poster contest. This year's theme is, "**Compost! - The Soil and Water Connection.**" The winning poster will be used to promote 2016 International Compost Awareness Week. Posters may be entered in one of three divisions: grades 3-7, grades 8-12, and college/adult.

The grand prize winner will have his or her poster distributed nationwide as the official 2016 International Compost Awareness Week poster and receive a \$500 savings bond prize. [Click here](#) to enter. Deadline: November 14, 2015.

### Nature's Voices Project 3rd Annual Student Stories Contest

Did one of your students lead your school's eco-club? Start a school or community garden? Advocate for Green Schools or climate action in your community? Have them share their inspirational journey to becoming a Green Schools leader! Nature's Voices is seeking personal and inspiring stories about students' green schools experiences. The winning story will win a trip to the Green Schools National Conference. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Deadline: December 20

## 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**.

### 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 GreeNYC 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](#).

### 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. Deadline: November 13

### 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).

### MFTA Fall 2015 P-Credit Classes

*Props, Costumes, and Set Design for Oral Presentations Across the Curriculum*

Learn how items from the recycling bin and free supplies from Materials for the Arts can be creatively reused to make engaging projects for lessons in all content areas. During these studio-style courses, teachers focus on developing lesson plans, aligned with the Arts Blueprint and Common Core standards, for their own students. [Click here](#) to register for this course.

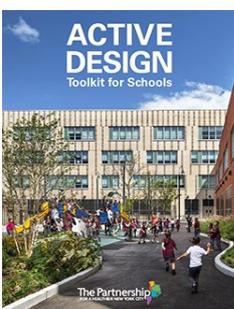
### Green Design Lab Energy Challenge

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 incor-

porate 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!](#)

## 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.

[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

[Annie's Grants for School Gardens](#) - offers grants to K-12 school gardens that connect children directly to real food. Funds can be used to buy gardening tools, seeds or other needed supplies. Thirty schools will receive \$2,500 and three schools will receive \$5,000.  
Deadline: *December 4*

[Monarch Lab Schoolyard Garden Grants](#) - provides up to \$1,000 to purchase plants, gardening equipment, curriculum, staff development and any other items that foster connections between K-12 students and nature. Schools may design their own garden, enhance an existing garden, or better use an existing garden. Deadline: *December 15*

[Laura Bush Foundation School Library Grants](#) - provides up to \$7,000 for school libraries to update, extend, and diversify their book and serials collections. *(Note: We've included this grant as it may be a way to build the environmental education-related books and resources at school media centers)*  
Deadline: *December 14*

## Trash Talk...

There should be a notable difference in your school's cafeteria(s): no more polystyrene foam trays! Compostable trays are now being used in all NYC Department of Education schools. And in schools that receive NYC Organics Collection, the trays go right in the organics bin, along with food scraps.

New posters featuring the compostable trays are now available for school cafeterias, as well as posters showing schools how to set up cafeteria waste sorting stations. Getting NYC Organics Collection? New food scrap decals are available, too. Click [here](#), to order school posters, decals and other recycling materials.



Please share this information with other staff at your school.

If you have any questions, send an email to [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov).

### 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)