

Sustainability Initiative Newsletter
November 4, 2014

[School Spotlight](#)



All of our schools are in the spotlight this week! 80% of our schools filled out their sustainability online!

[Partner Spotlight](#)



The NYC Department of Environmental Protection's [Education Office](#) has many resources for educators to teach about NYC's water systems!

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School Spotlight

The Sustainability Initiative has moved our schools' sustainability plans online. 80% of our schools filled out their member school profile on [Green Schools Alliance](#) website. Check out the amazing work in our schools!

Coordinators: Promote Your Sustainability Efforts!

Use this profile to keep track of the sustainability initiatives in your school throughout the year and brag about your progress! Don't share the website that we had you log into to edit your plan. Look up the public web address to use by going to www.greenschoolsalliance.org/search/gsa_search_schools and search for your school. For example, Brooklyn Arbor Elementary School's public address to share is: <http://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/schoolprofile/k414-brooklyn-arbor-elementary-school>

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News

- **\$500 Student Eco Grants Deadline Extended 1 More Day!** Greening Forward is seeking [grant requests](#) written by NYC DOE students to fund student-driven environmental projects. Students will be evaluated on their creativity, inclusivity, sustainability, and interest in engaging in other Greening Forward program areas. Questions may be directed to [Nadiyah Watson](#), Community Engagement Manager. **Deadline November 5!**
- **November 5 Sustainability Initiative Training Canceled!** 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. Registration has opened for advanced training on **December 4!** Deadline to RSVP is December 1. Click for more [details](#).
- **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 **November 21!!** Check out our [website](#) for more details.



- **Climate Education - HOT ITEMS WANTED:** The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has been exploring learning opportunities at the intersection of STEM education and climate change. They want your ideas, commitments, summaries of your work in this area, or even photos of you, your students, and colleagues working to enhance climate literacy. Learn [more](#) and send ideas to ClimateEd@ostp.gov by **November 7**.



Big Apple Crunch!

GrowNYC tallied the numbers and on October 24th, 828,525 participants took part in the "*crunch heard 'round the world!*" Even more astounding were the unique myriad of ways you all celebrated Big Apple Crunch: getting creative with arts and crafts, cooking up incredible apple dishes and many, many more.

- **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.
- Welcome to **Grow to Learn's new director Jessie Kerr-Vanderslice**: While we will always miss the infectious enthusiasm of Julianne Schrader, who moved to Philadelphia to lead the garden initiatives at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, we are happy to welcome Jessie to the NYC sustainability family! With a background in the management and design of after-school and expanded learning programming, Jessie holds a deep belief in

the power of hands on, experiential learning. As a passionate outdoors enthusiast, runner, and community gardener, she is a huge fan of programs that emphasize getting more kids (and adults!) out of doors and on the move. Welcome!

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Events

- **November 13:** [Grow to Learn Workshop: Think Outside the Box: Bed Building for School Gardens](#) – 4:00-6:00pm at P.S. 373 The Brooklyn Transition Center, 185 Ellery St. Brooklyn NY 11206. Cost: Free. [Please RSVP](#)
- **November 18:** Environmental Education Advisory Council's 40th Anniversary Celebration. The EEAC provides a network and forum for all committed to environmental education to grow professionally and to share ideas and information. Come celebrate the past 40 years of environmental education in NYC. The Celebration will be at Brooklyn Brewery, 79 N 11th St, New York, NY 11249 from 7:30-10:30pm. [RSVP](#) and bring your friends!
- **November 20:** [Grow to Learn Meet Up: Seed Swap!](#) – 4:00-6:00pm at 49 Chambers St. Manhattan, 2nd Floor, Room 212. Cost: Free. [Please RSVP](#)
- **December 4:** Sustainability Initiative Advanced Training. Learn more and register [here](#).
- **Save the Date!** 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.

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Opportunities

- **“Nature Works Everywhere” garden grants from The Nature Conservancy:** This grant opportunity is being offered in order to support the creation of ten [Nature Works Everywhere](#) gardens in NYC in school programs that will target grades 5-9. The grant package offers: \$2,000 to be spent on garden materials, up to \$500 in garden materials to be distributed at workshops, site visits, and meet ups, educational workshops, coaching and support, access to standards-based curriculum and teaching materials, A *Nature Works Everywhere* "Nature in a Box" kit, including a tablet, and a \$500 educator stipend. All proposals and questions must be submitted to natureworks@tnc.org. Learn more and download application [HERE](#). Proposals for this grant are due on **November 14 by 5:00pm**.
- **DOE Environmental Study Center Programs:** For more information please email 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
 - **Program 2 Hydroponics and Aquaponics** – Beginning 11/10/14, six sessions (over the course of 8 weeks) that includes everything from set-up of the hydroponic and aquaponic systems, seed propagation, data collection, analysis and harvest. These classes are held on either Wednesdays or Fridays beginning at 12:30 with a student dismissal from ESC at 3:00. 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

- [Made By Milk](#) Fall 2014 contest is underway! Deadline for submission is **November 19** so check out the website for exciting changes to the contest. Benjamin Cardozo High School won the national prize of \$5,000 last year. You could be that school this year!
- Other National Contests and Awards:
 - [International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest](#) – Deadline November 15
 - [Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Art Contest](#) – Deadline November 14
 - [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

- [Connecting Math to Other Subjects - Grants for High School Teachers](#) – Apply by **November 7**
- [N-Vision a Brighter Future Grant](#) – Deadline November 14
- [Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants](#) – Deadline November 17
- [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

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Partner Spotlight



The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) [Office of Education](#) provides K-12 students and teachers with a wide range of free programs and resources about the City's vital water supply, wastewater treatment systems, sound and noise quality, and other environmental concerns. Their website has great information about their programs, field trips, and funding opportunities. Check it out!

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Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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

Comments or Suggestions or Subscribe/Unsubscribe to the Newsletter: sustainability@schools.nyc.gov

Website: schools.nyc.gov/sustainability
