

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

June 19, 2015

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### School Spotlight

With over 1,600 sustainability coordinators throughout the New York City Department of Education, this special section of our newsletter is a tribute to those that spent countless hours of work putting these fantastic events together. We appreciate the hard work you do in our schools to educate students about the environment and make our operations more sustainable.

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## News

- **Farewell!**  
I'd like to say a quick farewell and wish you all the best in your school sustainability programs. It truly was inspiring to hear all the great work you do in your schools. Every time we had training or I visited a school, I was blown away by the incredible projects and enthusiasm. As a final note, I'd like remind everyone that it's all about the kids! Encourage your students to take responsibility for their actions and take the lead in sustaining our planet. When youth are empowered, they can achieve amazing things! I look forward to seeing what the DOE will accomplish in the future as you all are a great example for other schools and districts across the country. I hope you all have a relaxing and happy summer! ~ Sharon ☺
- **Career Opportunities in the Office of Sustainability**  
**Director of Sustainability**  
The [Director of Sustainability](#) within the Division of School Facilities (DSF) will be responsible for managing and coordinating several high profile initiatives, including monitoring/reporting components related to energy management, recycling and projects that assess and seek to reduce consumption patterns, as well as performing calculations and cost benefits analyses.  
  
**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.
- **Sustainability Poster Contest Award Ceremony**



On Monday, June 15, the Office of Sustainability hosted its 4th Annual Sustainability Artwork Contest Award Ceremony. The contest was open to all NYC DOE schools from all grade levels (K-12). Over 350 students from all five boroughs and all grade levels submitted artwork. Each winner received a mini-iPad. Congratulations to the 9 winners! View [Winners artwork slideshow](#)

- Get Free Posters from the Sustainability Initiative!**  
 Schools can order FREE posters created from the winners of the student artwork contest! Place your order by filling out [this form](#).
- DSNY Golden Apple Award Winners announced**  
 Click [here](#) for more info and congratulations to the winners!

Super Recyclers				
Grade Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
Elementary	Manhattan	Citywide Elementary	\$10,000	PS 130 Hernando De Soto
High School	Manhattan	Citywide High School	\$10,000	Stuyvesant High School
Reduce & Reuse				
Grade Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide Elementary	\$11,000	Brooklyn New School PS 146
Intermediate	Manhattan	Citywide Intermediate	\$11,000	WHEELS - <i>Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School</i>
High School	Queens	Citywide High School	\$10,000	Maspeth High School
Team Up to Clean Up				
Grade Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide Elementary	\$10,000	Kings Highway Academy
Intermediate	Brooklyn	Citywide Intermediate	\$10,000	Evergreen MS for Urban Exploration
High School	Brooklyn	Citywide High School	\$10,000	Roy Campanella OTC P721K
High School	Bronx	Borough Winner	\$5,000	Academy for Career and Living Skills

- Power Down Before Summer Break**  
 It's time to get ready for summer! Help your school power down for the summer and save money and reduce your carbon footprint. Use Eco-Schools USA [Summertime Power Down Checklist](#). Schools around the nation are

saving hundreds of thousands of dollars by raising awareness and implementing energy saving actions. Won't you help do your part to be energy smart!

- **Queens Students' Video Earns 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in International YRE Competition**

Congratulations to Mauricio Bustamante, Mezтли Cardoso, and Shantal Teran of Queens Vocational and Technical High School in Long Island City. Earlier this year they won first place in the National Wildlife Federations' 2014-2015 Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) USA competition. This month they've also gone on to place 2<sup>nd</sup> in the YRE International Competition, competing against 25 countries around the world! Students surveyed the entire school in a blind taste test to see if they preferred the taste of bottled water to tap water. Check out their winning submission, "[Tap's where it's at!](#)"

- **The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge**

The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (MPGC) is a nationwide call to action to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across America. The goal is to move millions of individuals, kids and families outdoors and make a connection between pollinators and the healthy food people eat. Will you BEE One in a Million? [Learn](#) how you can participate!

- **How-To Gardening Series with Grow to Learn**

Want to create a school garden? Check out these informational [videos](#) provided by [Grow to Learn](#), as they walk through the basics of starting and maintaining a school garden!

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## School Spotlight

### P.S. 130 Hernando De Soto School, Manhattan



On a warm spring day in May, both students and faculty at P.S. 130 – Hernando De Soto School, came together to build three community gardens within the pits of the trees they've adopted that line the front of the school. Everyone chipped in; custodians unloaded the bags of soil, PTA Members dropped off the flowers to be planned, while teachers gave out small shovels to student to plant the flowers. "Planting flowers in the tree pits helps to beautify our neighborhood" said Mrs. Nicklas, P.S. 130's Sustainability Coordinator, "It makes a big difference on our block!" Mrs. Nicklas and Ms. Pudel used the funds from DOE's Service In Schools grant they received to make this gardening event possible.

### P.S. 197 The Kings Highway Academy, Brooklyn



At P.S. 197 students are doing some wonderful things in the classroom, Sustainability Coordinator Phil Richford wrote about two classes Kindergarten classes that learned how to recycle in the classroom. In class K-213 students learned about recycling by making community worker vehicles out of old and used materials like milk containers, boxes, renuzit air fresheners and other household items. They also read *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss where they learned that to use alternative items instead of wasting to create new things. Students wrote letters to the Onceler, the main charcter in 'The Lorax' and asked that he use wool, ribbon, cotton, wood and plastic instead of cutting down the truffula trees. Oscar the Grouch, also made an appearance to the students collect Capri sun juice boxes and send them in to Terracycle for recycling.

Down the hall, students in class K-208 received a visit from Kate Wimsatt of GrownNYC who taught them about the 3 R's Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. She taught how recycling works and how to sort out and place their garbage in the correct bins. Lastly, she discussed how important it is for students to keep their neighborhood clean. Mr. Richford, P.S. 197's Sustainability Coordinator said, "although these students are young, they gasped what they learned about the 3 R's. Many of them couldn't wait to go home and tell their family about recycling."

### **P.S./I.S 49, Queens**



Ms. Jaclyn Coccovillo is the sustainability coordinator at P.S./I.S 49 in Middle Village, Queens. In April, she decided to have a school wide Earth Day Poster Contest. To her surprise the entire school participated in creating posters in honor of Earth Day. This was the first year her school participated in this contest, and because the turnout was so great, they plan to do it every year.

### **I.S. 59, Queens**



On Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, four 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes at I.S. 59 spent three hours planting French Marigolds, Petunias, Snapdragons, Asters, Daylilies, Echinacea, and many more various plants around the school's campus. Assisted by the staff from GrownNYC, students planted flowers in front of the building, to the left of the building's entrance, and in the spaces on the side of the building to beautify school grounds for years to come. Funds for this event were provided by Council Member Miller, who also attended and cheered on the students as they worked hard at mulching, clearing and planting. Marcia Young, Sustainability Coordinator at I.S. 59 said, "This was a very beautiful and humbling event as students will have the pleasure of caring for these lovely flowers all of their 3 years with us."

### **M.S. 582- The Upper Academy, Brooklyn**



The motto at M.S. 582 is "Make What You Believe In, Happen". To kick off National Green Week at M.S.582, the students did just that! The green team proposed a garden design that was approved by their principal, Mr. Brian Walsh. Once the design was approved the green team began to work diligently in the garden make their dream come true. Ms. Jeffcoat the school's librarian "The Garden of Happiness" to all of the students during their library time, each student then designed a picture representing their happiness. Students then painted their design on a tile and placed it in the school's newly planted garden. Students also wrote their own poems about gardens and happiness, which will go on the 'Poe-tree'wall as a contribution

to the "Garden of Happiness" at M.S.582. Each of these efforts was coordinated by Ms. Monica Buono with assistance from New York Cares and Veteran's Corp.

## LYFE at Paul Robeson High School, Brooklyn



The LYFE team at Paul Robeson High School introduced the celebration of Earth Day to LYFE families through a variety of “Go Green” activities. Each activity help promote children’s learning and development of fine motor skills, social interaction and literacy. Toddlers planted seeds in recycled milk cartons that bloomed into the perfect Mother’s Day gifts! Recycled coffee filters and ice cubes were adorned with drops of food coloring to create the fluid look of the earth. All of the art pieces created by students were put together for the Earth Day collage at Paul Robeson High School titled ‘Recyclable Art’!

In addition, student parents were introduced to the book “Give Peas a Chance” to learn about the healthy foods that a healthy Earth can produce. Meanwhile students read “Biscuits Earth Day” and “Little Helpers” to learn how everyone can help the Earth!



## P.S. 173- The Fresh Meadow School, Queens



Four years ago, Sustainability Coordinator Jean Mendler started the P.S. 173 Recycling Challenge project. The project consisted of students collecting, sorting and counting redeemable plastic water/soda bottles and aluminum soda cans for two weeks. Items that were considered recyclable but not redeemable for the 5c refund were separated out for regular plastic/metal recycling (such as iced tea, Gatorade, milk products). The redeemable items were picked up by a local redemption company, "Bottle Up Redemption Center" from Long Island City. Since the first Recycling Challenge, this recycling effort is done all year long and

sponsored by various school clubs such as our Cub Scout Pack 174, Girl Scout Troops 4088 & 4089, and the school’s newest club Kids Care Club.

The results of this year's Earth Day Recycling Challenge indicated that in the two weeks from April 20 - May 1, 2015, students collected, counted and redeemed 7,780 plastic bottles and aluminum cans! This wonderful collection brought their on year recycling total for the period May 1, 2014 - May 1, 2015 to 20,760 redeemed plastic bottles and aluminum cans!



If you would like your school to be highlighted in the School Spotlight, email [nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov)!

## Events

- **July 24** – The first annual [DOE Sustainability Summit](#) will be held in the Bronx, NY. The summit will be a forum, discussion, instructional and networking place for Sustainability Coordinators, Administrators, Teachers, Custodian Engineers and school green team members. This one day event includes lunch and it's *FREE!* Submit a [workshop](#) idea, [sign up to exhibit](#), or [register now!](#) *\*teachers will receive p-credit for attending.*

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## Opportunities

- **Active Design in Schools Toolkit**  
Check out the [NEW Active Design Toolkit](#) for Schools and learn how to transform school environments to improve student health.
- **GrowOya!**  
Grow NYC is giving away Oyas—terracotta pots that you plant in your garden to save water, save time and make your growing easier—donated to NYC school gardeners from GrowOya! Pick one up for your schools by sending GrowNYC a proud picture of your garden! Please note that if your picture includes students, it must be accompanied by photo release forms, send all submissions to [growtolearn@grownyc.org](mailto:growtolearn@grownyc.org).
- **Are interested in incorporating project-based lesson plans about sustainability into your curriculum?** The [Center for Green Schools](#) will be launching an online education platform to provide K-12 schools one-stop access to the best resources for sustainability. Launching in August 2015, the pilot will be tested throughout the 2015-2016 school year. Encourage your favorite educator to [apply here](#) to take part in the one-year pilot program. Deadline **June 30**
- **Water, Energy and Waste: Integrating Themes of Sustainability into Your Classroom**  
NY Sun Works, a non-profit organization that builds innovative science labs in urban schools, is offering a week long [course](#) which allows teachers of all subjects and grade levels an opportunity to learn new ways to integrate sustainability into their curriculum, all while receiving credit from the ASPDP. In addition, NY Sun Works will only charge the registration fee - all materials are donated. Class starts on July 7 so sign up now!
- **Edible Schoolyard offers p-credit summer course**  
Edible Schoolyard NYC is pleased to announce that registration has begun for their 3rd annual summer p-credit class on "[Edible Education: Creating Kitchen and Garden Classes for Standards-Based Instruction.](#)" Classes will be held at P.S. 216 and is open to all NYC Public School teachers and is worth 3 p-credits. Participants will learn the basics of setting up and maintaining a school garden and a kitchen classroom, and will learn how to use hands-on lessons in the garden and kitchen to teach ELA, math, science and social studies. Class starts on July 7, click [here](#) to register.
- **The Horticultural Society of New York is offering two exciting PD courses**
  - *Exploring Nature's Outdoor Classrooms: A Field Study.* We will be exploring native plants, urban trees, migratory bird patterns and river ecology. July 8-15, to learn more and register [click here](#)
  - *Beyond the Lima Bean: An interdisciplinary approach to Plant Science.* In this hands-on course, participants will explore botany through an interdisciplinary, experiential and sensory focus. July 22-29, to learn more and register [click here](#).
- **Materials for the Arts** is offering Summer Professional Development [Sessions](#) for P-Credits this Summer.

- *Creative Infusion; Art & Reuse in the Classroom July 6-11 (Monday – Saturday)*
  - *Paper; From Pulp to Fiction July 13-18 (Monday-Saturday)*
  - *Props, Costumes, and Set Design for Oral Presentations July 20-25 (Monday - Saturday)*
  - *Raw Fibers; The Art of Fabric July 27-August 1 (Monday - Saturday)*
- **Summer Professional Development Sessions** offered by the **New York Botanical Gardens**. Currently the NYBG is offering the following four [sessions](#) this summer:
    - *Seedlings for Early Childhood Educators July 6-11 (Monday - Saturday)*
    - *Plant, Learn and Grow: Gardening 201 July 13-18 (Monday-Saturday)*
    - *Botany in the Garden July 20-25 (Monday - Saturday)*
    - *The Art of Science July 27-August 1 (Monday - Saturday)*
  - **Calling all Teachers...**

The Summer STEM program needs more NYCDOE teachers to help staff the program. Teachers are especially needed in the Bronx at MS 129 and in Manhattan at the Art & Design H.S. Any networking you can do to help recruit teachers would be appreciated. Each teacher in grades 7 & 10 will be paired with an NYU Poly grad student who will assist in delivering the curriculum and support the more technical components. This is a great opportunity for teachers to work and learn in an exciting new STEM program, having strong technical support in the classroom. To learn more, visit the STEM [website](#).
  - **Update your Green School Alliance profile page**

We know your school has been doing some good stuff this school year! This is a good time to [update your GSA profile page](#).

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## Resources

- [Dream Big Teacher Challenge](#) – Are you a teacher that wants to impact the lives of the children and families in your school and community? Submit your proposal for up to \$100,000. Deadline: June 30
- [Mazda Foundation](#) -- grants to programs promoting education and literacy, environmental conservation, cross-cultural understanding, social welfare and scientific research. Deadline: July 1
- [Entomological Society President's Education Awards](#) -- recognize educators who have gone beyond the traditional teaching methods by using insects as educational tools. Win up to \$800 grant. Deadline: July 1
- [Zayed Future Energy Prize](#) - \$100,000 to one high school from the United States. Deadline: July 14
- [Materials for the Arts](#) - The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs' reuse facility offers free reusable supplies to all NYC DOE teachers and non-profit arts organizations.
- [Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Awards](#) -- recognizes schools that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving children's health by promoting good indoor air quality (IAQ) practices. Ongoing deadline.
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for the cost of shipping and handling
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)— up to \$1,000. Ongoing deadline
- [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
- [NWF Trees for Wildlife](#) - Get 100 free tree seedlings for your school. Apply 90 days before event
- [Toshiba America Foundation STEM Education Grants](#) – Ongoing deadline
- [Fund for Teachers Professional Development Grants](#) - Ongoing deadline
- [The Captain Planet Foundation](#) -- provides grants between \$500 and \$2,500 to school and community

groups to support hands-on environmental projects. Deadline: September 30

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## Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

Submissions for Newsletter/Spotlights: [nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:nhudlin@schools.nyc.gov)

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