

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

April 17, 2015

### [School Spotlight](#)



Brooklyn's P.S. 361 The East Flatbush Primary School's Sustainability Coordinator Audra Rice discusses P.S. 361 Green Team efforts.



### [Partner Spotlight](#)

Celebrating 25 years, Earth Day New York is a non-profit organization that promotes environmental awareness and solutions. Each year Earth Day NY put together high-profile Earth Day Events in New York City.

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Resources](#)

## School Spotlight

### Thoughts from a Sustainability Coordinator Ms. Audra Rice, P.S. 361 in Brooklyn



*The East Flatbush Primary School Green Team*

I'll like to share how exciting my experience as sustainability coordinator has been so far. After the November sustainability coordinator training I wondered as a guidance counselor how could I promote reduce, reuse and recycle (RRR) efforts school-wide. I started by creating a Green Team for our school. Our Green Team carries out an array of responsibilities such as energy audits, discarding of landfill and paper, and working in the lunch rooms

during lunch periods. We also hold weekly meetings and discuss what each member has done to promote RRR in our school. Everyone wants to be on the green team!

I asked the staff to come together to take a photo to promote 'greening' our school. This was the first time in eight years that we all have come together for an important cause and took a photo. The "Go Green" program in our school has definitely taken off with all classrooms, lunchrooms and offices actively recycling. In addition, we've held a Recycling Awareness Poster Day, Green Apple Day, and are currently starting our Helping Hands Gardening Club led by our IEP Teacher Ms. O'Connor and Parent Coordinator Ms. Colon. For Earth Day, we're planning activities outdoors in our school yard. Lastly, our school has won both Bronze and Silver Flag awards from the National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA program. We are very close to earning the Green Flag and want to earn a grant as well. I think next school year will be our time!

Our principal Tiffany Frazier is very proud of our accomplishments!

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

[Return to top](#)

---

## News

- **Student Green Team Video Contest**

For the first time, the DOE Office of Sustainability is hosting a Student Green Team video contest! **Student Green Teams are asked to create a 3-minute video with a CALL TO ACTION for sustainability initiatives within DOE schools.** The topic can be anything within the realm of sustainability (energy, water, ecology, etc.), but must refer to an action that could be taken at school or in your community. The contest is open to **all** NYC DOE schools (including charters). For contest rules, [click here](#).

- **Get Free Posters from the Sustainability Initiative!**

Schools can now order FREE posters created from the winners of the student artwork contest! Quantities are limited so place your order by fill out [this form](#) as soon as possible. Many thanks to all who submitted their artwork and congratulations to the 9 winners! We will announce the details of the award ceremony in the next couple of weeks. View [Winners artwork slideshow](#)

- **Earth Day 2015 is fast approaching...**

Like last year, we will be putting together a special edition of the newsletter, highlighting Earth Week activities in the schools. Keep that in mind while planning your event, so you can get the necessary media releases for photos. Stories with at least one photo must be submitted to [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov) by **May 1** to be included.

More than 1 billion people participate in Earth Day annually. We want to help the Earth Day Network in amplifying our world's multiple voices and unite communities in their effort to protect the planet. If you're organizing an Earth Day event or activity in your school or community, please [register your event](#) on their website. After you have taken action at your event, make sure to record it on their [Billion Acts of Green](#) platform.

- **Green Festival is April 24-26!**

The national [Green Festival 2015](#) is coming to town. The Sustainability Initiative, along with Materials for the Arts, Recycling Champions, and Cafeteria Culture will be operating the family fun area at the festival from 10am – 6pm on Saturday, April 25. The Festival has provided us with free tickets for school trips that want to

attend as a field trip. If you are interested in attending the festival, please email [Sharon Jaye](#) as soon as possible.

- **Custodian Engineer Demand Response Award Ceremony**

On Tuesday, April 14 the Office of Sustainability held its annual Demand Response (DR) Award Ceremony. Awards were given to Custodian Engineers who oversee facilities participating in the DR Program and exceeded performance during Summer 2014. The DR program pays facilities that help to curtail the electrical load on our City's electrical grid during times of peak electricity demand or during an emergency. A total of 46 awards were given to Custodians and Building Managers throughout the city. This year's top performing custodians were:

- Charles Cisek – M.S./H.S 368 in the Bronx
- Ioannis Galatulas – Spring Creek Educational Campus in Brooklyn
- Jose Pego – I.S. 90 in Manhattan
- Robert Baker – P.S/I.S 208 in Queens

Visit the [DSF website](#) for a complete list of award recipients.

- **Solar One's Energy Challenge winners!**

The Solar One's [Green Design Lab](#) Energy Challenge is a four-month-long competition that challenged schools to decrease electricity consumption and raise awareness through a school-wide energy reduction and awareness campaign. Here are the top 5 winners:

- P.S. 154 Harriet Tubman Learning Center in Manhattan
- Children's Workshop School/East Village Community School in Manhattan
- P.S. 3 The Bedford Village in Brooklyn
- P.S. 67 Charles A. Dorsey in Brooklyn
- Urban Assembly Institute of Math & Science for Young Women in Brooklyn

- **5th Graders at P.S. 34 Take Action on NYC Bag Bill**

See a [new video](#) on what Manhattan's P.S. 34 Franklin D. Roosevelt's 5th grade leaders from Cafeteria Culture's ARTS+MEDIA for Climate Action program are doing about NYC's plastic bag problem!

---

## Events

- **April 19** - [Earth Day New York events](#) in Union Square! The events include dozens of exhibitors representing environmental causes and green businesses, live performances, kids' activities, a sharing economy section, a book swap, and a green vehicle exhibition.
- **April 22** - Earth Day!
- **April 22** - Earth Day New York is hosting an [Earth Day 5K Walk & Green Tour](#). It'll be a great way to get outside on Earth Day, and learn about great green sites around New York City!
- **April 22, 7:00 - 9:00pm** - Join the [Impact Hub NY](#) for a free Earth Day Event for educators and administrators interested in experiential learning curriculum in the topics of food, sustainability and justice.
- **April 22, 4:00 - 6:00pm** - Please join National Wildlife Federation's NYC Eco-Schools this Earth Day for a Solar Sustainability Coordinator Gathering with Sustainability Coordinator Michelle Andry and special guests at the Urban Assembly School for Green Careers in Manhattan. You'll tour the school's roof to see the 5,000 sq. ft.

solar panel installation, take a walk through the garden and rainwater harvesting station, and learn about plans for a living wall! Catered snacks will be provided. If you're interested in attending [RSVP](#) by **Monday, April 20, 2015**. Space is limited!

- **April 24 - 26** - [Green Festival 2015](#) is coming to town Earth Week!
- **May 6** - Bike to School Day: Plan for your school to participate in National Bike to School Day. [Walkbiketoschool.org](#) encourages schools to register your event – you may receive incentives.
- **May 11, 2:30 - 3:30pm** - Webinar – Click to register: [Save Energy in Your School](#)
- **May 16, 9:00am - 3:30pm** - Bringing Food Justice to NYC! [A Teen Service and Advocacy Summit](#)
- **May 30, 10:00am - 4:00pm** - [It's My Estuary Day event](#) at Coney Island Creek at Kaiser Park in Brooklyn. You're invited to a day of service, learning and celebration!
- **June 1, 2:30 - 3:30pm** - Webinar – Click to register: [Sustainability Initiative Basics](#)
- **June 10, 9:30am - 1:30pm** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual STEM Matters NYC Elementary Science Expo. The Expo will have projects from elementary schools across New York City that exemplifies student interest, curiosity and a desire to explore the mysteries of the world. Schools may submit up to 4 projects in three project categories: Observational Study, Experimental Investigation Project, and Engineering Design Project. To learn more about participating, [visit the expo's website](#).
- **June 21 - 27** - [Student Climate & Conservation Congress](#) - Applications Now Open - Students (and a limited number of faculty or staff) are invited to apply to become U.S. Green School Fellows and participate in the 2015 Sc3 Congress. Sc3 empowers outstanding high school students, entering 9th to 12th grade next fall, with the skills, knowledge and tools necessary to address climate and conservation challenges and better serve their schools and communities. [Apply](#) or [Nominate](#) a student today!
- **July 24** - Save the Date for the *NYC DOE Summer Sustainability Summit* in the Bronx, NY.

[Return to top](#)

---

## Opportunities

- **Urban Forestry Professional Development Workshop:** You and your colleagues are invited to attend the Urban Forestry professional development workshops, hosted by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the [Visitor Center at Newtown Creek](#) (329 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn, NY).
- **MillionTreesNYC Strikes Again!** On Saturday, May 2 join Green School Alliance member schools in Pelham to give back to NYC's environment. You'll help plant 7,000 trees and 2,200 shrubs in Rodman's Neck North; in spring 2016, you'll help plant 9,800 trees and 2,600 shrubs, completing the restoration of Rodman's Neck South. This is a fabulous way to educate your students about biological remediation and promote good vibes at the same time! For more information, please contact Ken Higgins of the Town School at [khiggins@townschool.org](mailto:khiggins@townschool.org).
- **Trees Count! 2015 Educator Workshop:** Trees Count! 2015 is a volunteer-powered, citizen-science initiative to map, count, and care for all of New York City's street trees. With your help, the data collected will further

our understanding, and ability to care for, our urban forest. The emphasis of the census will be on participatory mapping, with the goal of collecting 60-80% of the tree data with volunteers. The Census will be kicking-off on May 19<sup>th</sup> and continue through October 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like to participate with your student “voluntreers,” your class will be provided with all of the equipment and training materials necessary to provide an educational (and fun) activity in your community. Space is limited so please [register](#) today! NYC Department of Parks and Recreation will conduct a free, Trees Count! 2015 professional development training on **Tuesday, April 28, 2015 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm.**

- **Free Project Learning Tree workshop on Habitats:** New York State Department of Conservation will conduct a free [Project Learning Tree workshop](#) on **Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 9:00am to 4:00pm.** Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an interdisciplinary, hands-on curriculum that uses the urban forest as a window on the world. Lessons and activities may include: The Shape of Things, Getting in Touch with Trees, Sounds Around, Poet-Tree, Picture this Habitat Pen Pals, and Charting Diversity. All participants will receive the PLT curriculum.
- **Have any summer plans yet?** [Sustainable Summer](#), a Brooklyn-based environmental education non-profit, has several summer programs available to NYC teens with an interest in environmental sustainability. Please pass along this information to your student green teams!
- **National Competitions & Contests:**
  - [Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge](#) – April 21
  - [Carton 2 Garden Contest](#) – April 22
  - [Science Without Borders Art Challenge](#) – April 27

[Return to top](#)

---

## Resources

- [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.
- [Captain Planet Foundation EcoTech Grants](#) – up to \$2,500. Deadline April 30
- [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. 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
- [State Farm Youth Advisory Board Service-Learning Grants](#) – funding service-learning projects between \$25,000 and \$100,000 that address the root to a variety of issues -- Deadline May 1

[Return to top](#)

---

## Partner Spotlight



2015 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day New York a non-profit organization that promotes environmental awareness and solutions through partnerships with schools, community organizations, businesses, and governments, through year-round programs as well as our annual Earth Day events. Founded in 1989 by a broad coalition of environmental groups, Earth Day NY strives to make Earth Day more than a one-day event or annual environmental wake-up call. For more than two decades, Earth Day NY has put together high-profile Earth Day Events in New York City. Their goal is to be a catalyst for ongoing education, action, and change.

Earth Day New York organizes one of the largest Earth Day events in NYC. For their 25th Anniversary, Earth Day NY has organized a variety of diverse arts and educational events to be held on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> in Union Square. To get involved with Earth Day NY or to bring their programs to your school, visit their website [www.earthdayny.org/](http://www.earthdayny.org/) or contact them at [info@earthdayny.org](mailto:info@earthdayny.org).

[Return to top](#)

---

## 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)