

## Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

April 14, 2014

### Sustainability Spotlight



The Sustainability Initiative held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Energy Conservation Art Contest in January. Over 1,200 students from all five boroughs and all grade levels submitted artwork this year.



### Partner Spotlight

Earth Day NY coordinates one of the larger [Earth Day](#) events in NYC on April 22 in Union Square and April 23-24 in Grand Central.

## News

- P.S. 146 in Brooklyn Earns the Green Flag Award
- DOE's Environmental Study Center
- Grow To Learn reaches 400 Schools!
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Releases Report
- Sustainability Initiative Announces Two New Partners!

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## Sustainability Spotlight



The Sustainability Initiative held its **3rd Annual Energy Conservation Art Contest** in January. Over 1,200 students from all five boroughs and all grade levels submitted artwork this year. Fifteen students' artwork were selected to create the NYC DOE 2014-2015 Energy Efficiency Calendar. For the month of April, another 100 pieces of artwork will be on display at the Tweed Courthouse as well as at Grand Central Terminal during Earth Day events (April 22-24).



The DOE hosted a reception at Tweed Courthouse on April 4, 2014 to award the students, their families, and school representatives. Students and teachers spoke about their artwork and feelings on energy conservation and sustainability.

#### **Congratulations to the winners!**

Grand Prize: Laura Dabalsa, 11th Grade, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, Manhattan

September: Shalisia Johnson, 12th Grade, Gramercy Arts High School, Mn

October: Katarina Albano, 5th Grade, P.S. 003 Margaret Gioiosa School, SI

November: Alba Nolasco, 8th Grade, I.S. 98 The Bay Academy, Brooklyn

December: Juliana Lay, 6th Grade, I.S. 125 Thom J. McCann, Queens

January: Amin Nasari, Kindergarten, P.S. 154, Queens

February: Olivia Lee, 9th Grade, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, Mn

March: Alaniss Garcia, 4th Grade, P.S. 206 Horace Harding School, Queens

April: Maeryam Nasari, 4th Grade, P.S. 154, Queens

May: Destiny Ashley, 5th Grade, P.S. 121 The Throop School, Bronx

June: Thomas Farrell, 10th Grade, Maspeth High School, Queens

July: Yumi Wu, 3rd Grade, P.S. 21 Edward Hart, Queens

August: Sophia Chen, 2nd Grade, P.S. 130 Hernando DeSoto, Manhattan

Back Cover: Jay Shah, 1st Grade, P.S. 133, Queens

Certificate: Sherleen Montan, 7th Grade, P.S./I.S. 157 The Benjamin Franklin Health and Science Academy, Brooklyn

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## News

- **P.S. 146 in Brooklyn was recognized with the Green Flag Award** by National Wildlife Federation's [Eco-Schools USA program](#) for conserving natural resources and integrating environmental education into the curriculum. P.S. 146 is the fourth school in New York City, and only the 24th in the country, to achieve "Green Flag" status. P.S. 146 students tackled a host of sustainability initiatives that included forming an Eco-Action team, increasing green space and biodiversity on school grounds, saving energy, and implementing award-winning waste reduction measures. The school recycles and composts 75% of its cafeteria food waste, turns hard-to-recycle items into art projects, and is an official NYC Compost Project demonstration site. This year, P.S. 146's school garden, which includes a "pollinator palace" and bug hotel, met the criteria for certification with NWF's Schoolyard Habitats® program. Check out the school's [blog](#) to learn more about the students' green activities and accomplishments.
- **Did you know the DOE has an Environmental Study Center?** The Center offers rich and engaging experiential environmental science programs for students and teachers at all grade levels. Nestled in the Bergen Beach section of Brooklyn, the 7,000 square foot learning center is home to over 200 living organisms, four dynamic learning labs (Flora, Fauna, STEM and a fully equipped biotechnology lab), an outdoor learning space, a fully functioning greenhouse, and a pond habitat. As a premier informal science destination space, ESC's mission is to

deliver hands-on environmental science and STEM instruction. To learn more, visit their [website](#).

- **Grow to Learn School Garden Initiative Reaches 400 Registered Schools!** The First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray, cut the ribbon on the 400<sup>th</sup> registered school garden at P.S. 372 in Brooklyn. Co-founded by GrowNYC and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, [Grow to Learn: Citywide School Garden Program](#) awarded the PTA of P.S. 372 a \$2,000 grant to start a vegetable garden.
- In March, the United Nation's **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC) released its latest report on climate change. Climate scientists are nearly unanimous: The climate is changing, and we're making it worse. We can't stop it, so we will have to learn to live with it. Here's an [excellent report](#) from the Environmental Defense Fund summarizing the key points in the report which focuses primarily on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability. Naturally, there's no definitive consensus on exactly what the future holds, but it's becoming impossible to deny that we can't just continue with climate business as usual.
- **The Sustainability Initiative has two new partners!**

[Skraptaacular](#) increases environmental awareness by inspiring children and communities to transform trash into art and science all while teaching concepts of waste reduction and smart consumerism. Skraptaacular can customize the program for K-8 classes, workshops, assemblies, and eco-events to align with curriculum requirements and afterschool program needs. Become a Skraptaacular ambassador in your community. To schedule a class, workshop or discuss how a Skraptaacular program can further your school's goals please contact [Michelle Del Guercio](#) or check out their [website](#).

[EnergyTeachers.org](#) is a charitable network of educators who share useful ideas and resources for learning about energy production and use. Services include a rich web site, newsletters, face-to-face consultation, a lending library, innovative projects, and other tailored services. The web site serves as a hub for gathering and linking to tools for planning curriculum like workshops, annotated links, field trips, lab-equipment, books, and more. Their most popular projects include Green Dollhouse Challenge (non-competitive awards for design that explores sustainability and play), Solar Cooking Workshops (a rigorous exploration of science and engineering of cooking, light, and thermal physics), and Field Trip Guide (database of hundreds of tour-friendly sites for learning about energy production and use). If you're interested in teaching about energy, [EnergyTeachers.org](#) will help you find the best resources out there, and help you develop and publish your own.

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## Events

- **April 13-19:** National Environmental Education (EE) Week: Hosted by NEEF, the National Environmental Education Foundation, EE Week is a celebration of environmental education held each year the week before Earth Day. The 2014 theme, Greening STEM: Engineering a Sustainable World, will explore the application of engineering to sustainable solutions for a healthier planet and healthier people. From educator toolkits, to infographics, to EE Week's ongoing webinar series, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and find something that will work for you. EE Week [registration](#) is FREE and open to anyone.
- **April 22 is Earth Day!** Join the largest green festivities in the country at Earth Day in Union Square on Tuesday, April 22 from 11:00am to 7:00pm. Teachers are encouraged to bring their students to take part in kid-friendly activities, view live performances, and check out all of the green exhibits on site, including a green vehicle show and a green travel exhibition. Click for [more information](#).
- **April 30:** NYC DOE Sustainability Coordinators are invited to join NYC Eco-Schools' 3rd Sustainability Coordinator

gathering of 2014 at the JVL Wildcat Academy in the Bronx, (1231 Lafayette Avenue, 3rd floor), Wednesday, April 30, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. In honor of Earth Month, special guest Stephen Ritz, founder of Green Bronx Machine, will join Principal Marc Donald, graduate Luis Novoa and current JVL students for a lively discussion about how the school's hydroponic lab is an integral part of JVL's curriculum, culinary and catering programs. Hydroponic snacks will be prepared by JVL culinary program students. Maximum capacity 50. RSVPs will be accepted on a first come first served basis to [fanoe@nwf.org](mailto:fanoe@nwf.org)

- **May 10:** [Riverkeeper Sweep](#) connects volunteers to dozens of shoreline cleanups, tree-plantings, and other service projects. It is the signature New York event in the Waterkeeper Alliance SPLASH Series event, presented nationally by Toyota, and designed to connect people to their waterways. Registered volunteers are eligible for raffle prizes. There are over 80 Sweep Project Sites, so check out the website to [register!](#)
- **May 17:** Staten Island Rotary Club is sponsoring an Ecology Day Fair at the Staten Island Mall on Saturday, May 17, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Staten Island Schools can participate in the fair. Contact Lori Karelas at 718-667-4942 or [lhkarelas@aol.com](mailto:lhkarelas@aol.com) for more information.
- **May 21:** Save the date to visit Green Flag Eco-School, P.S.146/Brooklyn New School (610 Henry Street) for our Brooklyn Sustainability Coordinator gathering. P.S. 146 weaves sustainability into every aspect of its curriculum, recycles and composts 75% of its cafeteria food waste, turns hard-to-recycle items into art projects, and is an official NYC Compost Project demonstration site.
- **June 5:** [A Pollinator for Every Classroom: Gardening for Wildlife at School and Beyond](#): A Hands-on Professional Development Workshop for K-12 Educators with National Wildlife Federation, Gateway National Recreation Area, and Community Greenways Collaborative Staff. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY. Thursday, June 5, 2014, 9:00am to 3:00pm. Educators will learn how to utilize NWF's Eco-Schools USA and Schoolyard Habitat Programs™ to help their students develop critical thinking skills, analyze, and solve relevant environment-based problems. Maximum capacity 50. Lunch included. Please RSVP to [fanoe@nwf.org](mailto:fanoe@nwf.org) by May 23.
- **June 22-28:** The 6th Annual [Student Climate & Conservation Congress](#), in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier environmental leadership program in the U.S. for students entering 9-12 grades next fall. Applications are now open and are off to a vigorous start - so apply early! To learn more or apply, click [here](#).
- **July 21-24:** [Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation 2104 Summer Institute](#): Introduce Education for Sustainability (EfS) to your classroom - any classroom, any subject! A 3-day workshop, with optional 4th day for further curriculum development and break-out sessions, Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY. Deadline to [register](#) June 15.
- **September 27:** *Plan ahead!* The Center for Green Schools' Green Apple Day of Service gives parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform all schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects. Check out [project ideas](#), read last year's [highlights](#) and register your [2014 project](#) today!

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## Opportunities

- **Made by Milk Contest:** The Made By Milk contest encourages students to build strong bones with milk and flex their creative muscles by repurposing milk cartons. The winning team can earn its school up to \$5,000. Just collect your school's milk cartons and use at least 100 of them intact to create a piece of art that fits the

semesters' theme. Enter the Spring 2014 contest [here](#). **Contest submission due April 16.**

- **Sustainability Curriculum Project (deadline extended):** CELF's NYC Leadership Training in Sustainability Curriculum Project is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year. This program provides a multitude of benefits including: up to a \$1,000 school grant to support your school's Education for Sustainability goals; teacher stipends for a summer workshop and additional training during the year, earned P-credits toward salary advancement, one-on-one consulting from CELF throughout the year, access to cutting edge technology, STEM curriculum and more. To learn more or apply, go to CELF's [website](#). **Deadline is April 23.**
- **The Green Festival is coming to NYC April 26-27 and looking for volunteers.** To sign up as a volunteer, go to [greenfestivals.org](#) for more information. If you're interested in volunteering as a group, contact [bryan.ting@greenfestivals.org](mailto:bryan.ting@greenfestivals.org) to arrange for a group time slot.
- **Bike Driver's Ed Assembly at Your School:** Designed for students grades 3-8, this free program from [Bike New York](#) teaches essential information for students to enjoy cycling more and is tailored to prevent the most frequent types of crashes that young cyclists experience. No equipment is needed. For more information, email [Zoe Cheswick](mailto:Zoe.Cheswick).
- **DSNY Golden Apple Awards** offer **cash prizes** in three *TrashMasters!* contests open only to NYC DOE schools. Show off your exemplary school recycling program, waste reduction initiatives, or cleanup and gardening efforts. Schools compete in separate Elementary, Intermediate, and High School Divisions for Borough and Citywide honors. [Start working on your projects now!](#) **Contest entry deadline is May 1.**
- [Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers:](#) July 13-17, 4th-8th grade teachers from New York City and the NYC Watershed come together for 5 days and 4 nights at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center at Fahnestock State Park in Cold Spring, NY to discover the forests, water, technology, and communities of the NYC Watershed through field trips and presentations, practice hands-on science activities related to forestry and water quality, and explore curricula aligned to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Cost is FREE but you must apply. Click [here](#) for more information. **Apply by May 5.**
- The **Atlantic Cup** is an environmentally focused race and offers students unique learning opportunities on the environment and environmental responsibility, as well as understand how sailors incorporate math, geography, and science into sailing, and more. If you are interested in the program, in NYC on **May 15**, contact Mindy Cummings [atmindy@manukasem.com](mailto:atmindy@manukasem.com) or at 401-619-4840.
- [The Billion Oyster Project \(BOP\)](#) is a long term restoration and education initiative developed by the New York Harbor School on Governors Island, a NYC Eco-School. BOP's goals are to restore one billion live oysters to New York Harbor over the next 20 years and, in the process, train thousands of young people to take an active role in restoring their local marine environment. BOP is **seeking middle and high school teachers interested in integrating "oyster gardening" and other marine science and technology projects into their classes and curricula.** If interested, contact the BOP Schools coordinator at [restore@nyharbor.org](mailto:restore@nyharbor.org).

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## Resources

- [Discovery 3-M Young Scientists Challenge \(5-8\)](#) - up to \$25,000. Deadline April 22, 2014.
- [New York Restoration Project's Gardens for the City](#) – Application for assistance with revitalizing public spaces. Rolling deadlines.
- [Hart Seed Company Donations](#) – Free seeds for your school garden for the cost of shipping and handling only.
- [Dominion K-12 Energy or Environment Program Grants](#) – up to \$10,000. Deadlines May 1, July 16, September 1,

2014

- [American Honda Foundation Grants \(K-12\)](#)—up to \$75,000. Deadlines May 1, August 1, November 1, 2014.
- [ING Run for Something Better School Award](#) - \$3,500 grants for elementary and middle schools to establish or expand a school-based running program. Deadline May 15, 2014.
- [Captain Planet Foundation EcoTech](#) - Sixteen \$2,500 grants will be awarded to schools or non-profits organizations for the purpose of engaging children in inquiry-based projects in STEM fields that use innovation, bio-mimicry/nature-based design, or new uses for technology to address environmental problems in their communities. Rolling deadlines through May 31, 2014.
- [NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants](#)—up to \$5,000. Deadlines June 1, October 15, 2014.
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)—\$1,000. Rolling deadlines.
- [Zayed Future Energy Prize 2015](#) - \$100,000 grants for high schools. Deadline July 14, 2014.

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## From the Green Schools National Conference....

by Neil Glaser, Sustainability Coordinator at K139

What a great opportunity to meet and connect with so many smart and interesting people focused around ONE topic: SUSTAINABILITY! As a participant at the conference, I was inspired by many stories and ways to get students and schools involved: Think big, act small, measure, give feedback.

**Goal: Make the feedback visible, read the feedback, take responsibility for your contribution to it, reflect on it, learn from it, and self-correct.**

So, as a school, we have stated that improving recycling collection in the school is a goal. We should post our results: “We have reduced waste by 10%.” Give feedback to the students that “you have made this successful, we have learned that we can change our behaviors and make a difference in how much waste we create and where it goes.” We have a green team that helps to monitor what goes where, and we are learning to be responsible for our actions.

The five sustainability coordinators that were sponsored to attend the conference were able to attend the sessions of our choice, which is one of the best opportunities of professional development, as it was tailored to what I needed and wanted. I learned that sustainability can be integrated into a “whole school” plan and curriculum, and that it is not something additional teachers have to do. It is just smart teaching about how to live in our world, so our humanity and systems can endure. So many people shared best practices and best ideas, and I am meeting with my principal to discuss implementing a new few ideas!

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## Partner Spotlight



Earth Day New York is a non-profit organization that promotes environmental awareness and solutions through partnerships with schools, community organizations, businesses, and governments. They do so through year-round programs as well as the annual Earth Day events. Their programs include outdoor/indoor learning gardens, youth

environmental advocacy conferences, speakers bureau, advocacy campaigns, and other initiatives.

Earth Day NY coordinates one of the larger [Earth Day](#) events in NYC on April 22 in Union Square and April 23-24 in Grand Central. To get involved with Earth Day NY or bring their programs to your school, check out their [website](#) or contact them at [info@earthdayny.org](mailto:info@earthdayny.org).

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## Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

Submissions for Newsletter/Spotlights or Subscribe to the Newsletter: [sjaye@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sjaye@schools.nyc.gov)

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Website: [schools.nyc.gov/sustainability](https://schools.nyc.gov/sustainability)

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