

## Sustainability Initiative Newsletter

May 29, 2014

### School Spotlight



M.S. 51 in Brooklyn is hosting their first annual "Sustainable is Attainable" Sustainability Summit on Saturday, June 14 from 11:00am –

2:00pm at 350 5th avenue in Park Slope. **The event is open to all DOE students, teachers and families!**



### Partner Spotlight

[Materials for the Arts](#) offers programming focused on creative reuse: making art with readily available materials and the ever-changing MFTA warehouse inventory.

## News

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- Made by Milk Spring Contest Winners Announced
- Eco-Schools' 3<sup>rd</sup> Sustainability Coordinator Gathering
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## “Sustainable is Attainable”

M.S. 51 in Brooklyn is hosting their first annual "Sustainable is Attainable" Sustainability Summit on Saturday, June 14 from 11:00am – 2:00pm at 350 5th avenue in Park Slope. **The event is open to all DOE schools and students!** Contact Sustainability Coordinator [Jody Reiss](#) with questions.

This year's theme is water, waste, and energy. Activities include author readings, clothing swap, crafts with recyclable materials (including crocheted purses from plastic bags, and paper beads from magazines), water games and activities, calculating carbon footprints with DOT, and many others, including local food vendors. A \$5 entry fee goes towards a M.S. 51 student-led project to install bottle-filling water fountains at the school.



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## News

- Sustainability Coordinators: Annual Sustainability Survey is due June 13!** As part of Local Law 41 (2010) and Chancellor’s Regulation A-850 (2013), each school's Sustainability Coordinator is required to complete the annual sustainability survey. The survey is due by the end of the day on June 13. The results of this survey will be included in the Department of Education's Annual Sustainability Report. Please let your Principal know when you have submitted the survey as the completion of the survey is part of the principal’s compliance checklist. For questions, email [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov).



**Made by Milk Spring Contest Winners Announced!** Benjamin N. Cardozo High School in Bayside, Queens has been named the **grand prize** winner in Evergreen Packaging's *Made By Milk Carton Construction Contest*. Cardozo used 1,250 recycled cartons to recreate a scene from Alice in Wonderland, titled "Alice and Absolom's Milk Made Hideaway." The creation includes a life-size replica of Alice, Absolom the Caterpillar, and the Cheshire Cat. 98 entries from schools across the U.S. submitted their recycled milk carton designs for a chance to win up to \$5,000. Benjamin N. Cardozo High School plans to use their grand prize winning money to fund recycled art classes at the school. Click [here](#) to see more about their contest entry and a list of

winners. Check out a great article on the contest in [Yahoo Finance](#).

- NWF Eco-Schools held their **3<sup>rd</sup> Sustainability Coordinator Gathering** of the 2013-14 school year at the JVL Wildcat Academy with Principal Marc Donald, his wonderful students, and special guest Stephen “Green Bronx Machine” Ritz. Discussions included personal stories by the students and how aeroponic and hydroponic systems can teach students new skills that lead to green careers. Thanks to Bronx Guild High School student Jose Espinal for the beautiful pictures!



- **Remind Drivers to Turn Off Their Engines to Keep the Air Clear:** Did you know that NYC has a law that states drivers may not permit their vehicles to idle longer than one minute when they are adjacent to a school? Please help us remind parents and other drivers who visit your school to turn off their engines when they are near school buildings. For more information and flyers that you can post and distribute to your school community, visit the [Department of Environmental Protection website](#) (see the “Turn It Off and Clear the Air” section).
- The **White House releases the 3rd National Climate Assessment report**, by far the most comprehensive look ever at climate change impacts in the United States. Based on four years of work by hundreds of experts from government, academia, corporations, and public-interest organizations, the assessment confirms abundant data and examples that climate change isn't some distant threat -- it's affecting us now. The good news is that there are [sensible steps](#) that we can take to protect this country and the planet. There's great information on the site for students and teachers to get engaged. [Check it out!](#)



**[Recycling Champions Program](#) highlights Assistant Custodian Luis Osorio at George Washington High School**

With over 2,000 students at GWHS, Luis has seen a lot of changes during his fifteen years. In January, the school started participating in the [DSNY Organics Collection Program](#), requiring schools to separate their [food scraps](#) and recyclables in the cafeteria. As a campus building, the new program required increased communication from everyone, but Luis says things are moving in the right direction. "Students are filling up bins more quickly and people are taking better care of the building, so it's cleaner." It's important to remember that change takes time as high school students develop new habits to dispose of their waste.

As for advice to other custodians, Luis says it's important to take action yourself. Make sure recycling bins are in every room - a consistent setup will make it easier for the students, teachers and the custodial crew to recycle. Recycling Champions thanked Luis for his dedication to recycling. Custodian engineers play a vital role in achieving school sustainability goals.

# Events

- **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. To see if there's space left, please email [fanoe@nwf.org](mailto:fanoe@nwf.org).
- **June 5:** [Solar One's Green Design Lab Professional Development Workshop](#): This workshop trains teachers on how to use the Green Design Lab and CleanTech curriculum to introduce students to topics of Energy, Air, Water, Food, and Materials. The curriculum, filled with hands-on interactive activities, uses the school building itself as a laboratory for learning and as a tool for environmental change. During the PD teachers will participate in hands on STEM activities from our curriculum, explore methods for integrating environmental education and sustainability across all subject areas, and discover methods for school greening initiatives such as: starting school gardens, improving recycling, and reducing electricity consumption. All teachers attending will gain access to Solar One's curriculum. [Click here to RSVP](#)
- **June 5:** Edible Schoolyard Workshop: "Going Seed to Table Through the Academic Subjects" from 9:00am to 3:00pm at P.S. 216 in Brooklyn. Details and links to register [here](#).
- **June 10:** [Staten Island Sustainability Coordinator Gathering – Private Tour of Fresh Kills Park](#): The National Wildlife Federation will be hosting a private tour of Fresh Kills Park with Phil Gleason, the civil engineer who is overseeing the landfill's transformation to an energy-generation facility and a 2,200 public access park that is home to wildflowers and nesting ospreys. This is NWF/NYC Eco-Schools' final Sustainability Coordinator gathering of the 2013-14 school year. The start of the tour is at P.S. 57 (140 Palma Drive) at 3:30pm. [Registration is due now and space is limited!](#)
- **June 13:** Annual Sustainability Survey due!
- **June 14:** "Sustainable is Attainable" event at K051: see School Spotlight for more information.
- **June 22-28: Only a few spots left!** The 6th Annual Green Schools Alliance [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 open for the few remaining spots! To learn more or apply, click [here](#).
- **July 2:** Free Summer Conference from [FoodFight](#): Register for *E.A.T.: Educating America's Teachers to Lead the Fight Against Obesity* and join leading experts in the fields of health, nutrition, food politics, sustainability and school food reform. Arm yourself with the tools necessary to be a change agent in your school. Click [here to register](#).
- **July 21-24:** [Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation 2104 Summer Institute](#): **Only a few spots left!** 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.
- **July 27-August 1:** Join the [Cloud Institute](#) in New York City for the EfS Summer Design Studio. The week-long intensive has been developed for educators, faculty, curriculum supervisors, administrators, and community leaders who want to learn how to design and embed Education for Sustainability (EfS) into their curriculum,

assessments, organizational learning strategies and programs. Learn more [here](#).

- **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

- The NYC DOE is offering 17 exciting science and **STEM summer enrichment opportunities** of Pre-K to high school students featuring: 1-week and multi-week camps, High School Internships, and 5-week College Credit-bearing Courses. Click [here](#) to learn more about the individual opportunities and register.
- **Attention Middle and High Schools!** The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has received a significant grant, enabling them to establish exciting new partnerships with 10 middle and high schools across New York City. They need help recruiting middle and high schools to apply for this partnership opportunity for the 2014-2015 academic year. Ideal schools for this program will have a proven track record of successful partnerships with community organizations, serve underserved populations, and have a highly functioning school environment. Ten schools will be chosen by a selection panel of WCS and outside educators to take part in this yearlong partnership. A small team of educators from each school will receive professional development on using the Mannhatta2409.org platform, programs for their students at our NYC parks, and support in creating learning experiences for use with their students throughout the year. Interested teachers and administrators can apply [here](#) by describing partnerships they already have and describing how this new partnership would fit into their school curriculum. **Applications are due June 1** and schools will be notified by June 26. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lindell at 718-220-5100.
- **Brooklyn Urban Gardener Certificate Program:** The Brooklyn Urban Gardener (BUG) program serves as a mutually beneficial bridge connecting the educational resources of Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) to the greening efforts of Brooklyn's communities. Upon completing all coursework and required volunteer hours, graduates are certified as Brooklyn Botanic Garden BUG volunteers. Certified BUGs then continue to support greening projects at schools, senior centers, block associations, community gardens, and other organizations. BUG students can expect an experiential, train-the-trainer program. Using a hands-on, participatory education model, the course includes instruction in sustainable horticultural practices suited to the urban environment, street tree stewardship, community engagement practices, effective teaching methods, and an overview of the greening resources available in Brooklyn. Questions? Check the BUG [FAQ page](#), email them at [bug@bbg.org](mailto:bug@bbg.org), or call 718-623-7250. **Deadline June 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- **"Growing a Wild Brooklyn & Queens" Program:** In September 2014, NYC Eco-Schools is launching a new gardening education and on-site ecological restoration program to benefit pollinators, in partnership with Gateway National Recreation Area and the American Littoral Society. They are looking for five more schools (one classroom per school) in Brooklyn or Queens to participate. This is an inter-generational project; as such, you must be willing to include grandparents from the school in the project. The program will also include at least two field trips (Fall 2014 and Spring 2015) to Gateway during the 2014-15 school year, as well as seed germination and plant-growing in the classroom. If you're interested in participating, please email Emily Fano at [fanoe@nwf.org](mailto:fanoe@nwf.org) ASAP.
- **Materials for the Arts Summer Workshops:** Learn how to save left over items at your school from the waste stream and free supplies from Materials for the Arts. These materials can be creatively reused to make

engaging projects for lessons in all content areas. During these fun studio-style courses, teachers focus on developing lesson plans, aligned with the Arts Blueprint and Common Core standards, for their own students. MFTA is offering week-long sessions beginning July 7. Upon successful completion of each course, DOE staff earn three "P" In-service credits, for professional certification and salary differential requirements (+30), from the New York City Department of Education After School Professional Development Program (ASPDP). Check out their website for more [details](#).

- **Edible Schoolyard NYC Summer ASPDP Course: *Creating the Garden and Kitchen Classroom for Standards Based Instruction*.** The class, which counts for 3 P-credits, runs from July 14-July 18, 2014. Participants will engage in hands-on activities to show them techniques for incorporating gardening and cooking to teach across the subjects--science, math, social studies, ELA and the arts. In addition to gaining access to Edible Schoolyard NYC's inter-disciplinary, standards-based curriculum, participants will work with one another and with our instructors to create a unit to bring back to their own school sites. Register through the ASPDP [website](#). Once there, scroll through the "Course Provider" menu and select "Edible Schoolyard NYC at PS 216." If you have any questions, please contact Liza Engelberg at [le@esynyc.org](mailto:le@esynyc.org).

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## Resources

- [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**.
- [NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants](#)—up to \$5,000. Deadlines June 1, October 15.
- [City Parks Foundation Capacity Fund Grants](#) – up to \$5,000. Deadlines June 1, October 1.
- [Annie's Grants for Gardens](#) – up to \$1,500 for school gardens that connect children directly to real food. Deadline is June 2 @ 5:00pm.
- [Zayed Future Energy Prize 2015](#) - \$100,000 grants for high schools. Deadline July 14.
- [Dominion K-12 Energy or Environment Program Grants](#) – up to \$10,000. Deadlines July 16, September 1.
- [Aetna Regional Grants](#) – up to \$50,000. Cycle deadline July 30.
- [American Honda Foundation Grants \(K-12\)](#)—up to \$75,000. Deadlines August 1, November 1.
- [Project Learning Tree GreenWorks!](#) - \$1,000-2,000. Three types of grant opportunities. Deadline September 30.
- [Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant 2015](#) – \$500. Deadline October 15.
- [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.
- [The Awesome Foundation](#)—\$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 Young Global Citizens making positive social change. Rolling applications.

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## Partner Spotlight



[Materials for the Arts](#) collects unneeded items from businesses and individuals, and make these donations available for free to its recipients: nonprofit organizations with arts programming, government agencies, and public schools. The MFTA warehouse is operated by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with additional support from the City's Departments of Sanitation and of Education.

The Education Center at Materials for the Arts offers programming focused on creative reuse: making art with readily available materials and the ever-changing MFTA warehouse inventory. The Center hosts programs in two studios, organizes exhibitions of recipient artwork at MFTA Gallery, and sends teaching artists into the community to share the art of reuse. Since 2002, the Center's programs have reached tens of thousands of educators, students, artists, therapists, afterschool leaders, and community service providers. MFTA education programs help you differentiate instruction and engage students in learning with hands-on, standards-aligned art projects made using free supplies from the warehouse.

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## Contact Us

Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities

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