Earth Day is April 22! Any plans?

April is a time to celebrate Springtime and the environment during Earth Month! Is your school planning to enjoy Earth Day (4/22), Week, or Month with any projects, events or activities? Please let us know! The Sustainability team would love to hear about any celebrations you are having and also visit your school to join!

E-mail us at: sustainability@schools.nyc.gov

Introducing the DOE Sustainability Showcase on May 22!

Please join Chancellor Fariña and the DOE Office of Sustainability on May 22, 2017 for our inaugural Sustainability Showcase! The event was created to celebrate school efforts, actions, innovation and dedication to sustainability across grade levels, topics and leadership.

Join us in recognizing the extraordinary things that students, teachers, administrators, building staff, partner organizations and YOU are working on to pave the way to a greater school sustainability.

The Sustainability Showcase will include:

- **Expo** featuring schools with noteworthy sustainability projects. This will be an opportunity for other to learn and be inspired by schools who are doing amazing things!

- **Award ceremony** will recognize outstanding individuals and teams from environmental leadership contribution to sustainability in our classroom, buildings and communities.

- **Green Team Video Contest**: Sign your Green Team up today! Winning Green Team videos will be screened and three grand prizes of $500 will be awarded!

- **Action-oriented workshops** will provide an instructional and networking environment for sharing ideas, best practices, resources, and to take a deeper dive into the following topics:
  - Grant Writing
  - Waste, Recycling & Composting
  - Energy & Climate Change

We’ll be giving away several $5,000 prizes! Got to be in it, to win it!

Click here to RSVP!

This free event is open to all DOE staff.

Interested in showcasing your school’s sustainability projects? Questions? email: sustainability@schools.nyc.gov
On Friday, February 3rd the Office of Sustainability visited the Lower East Side Ecology Center, located at the East River Promenade at Grand Street, to celebrate the beginning of a new partnership and to see their art-filled NYC Compost Project site.

Starting in 1987, the Ecology Center has worked to bring recycling to communities even before it was the law. Today, they have expanded their reach to include diverting organic material and electronic waste from landfills. This holistic organization works closely with schools and community members to champion environmental stewardship in all Manhattan neighborhoods.

Ever wondered why we need to recycle our electronics or how to build a worm bin for your classroom? Contact the Ecology Center today to schedule a PD, field trip, or request a site visit to incorporate their services into your school!

There are many ways that YOU can reduce phantom loads and save a significant amount of energy during Spring Recess. Phantom Loads are when small amounts of electricity are used even electronics are “off” or in “sleep mode” yet still plugged in. Even when not in use, a desktop computer in sleep mode consumes between 5-10 kilowatts and anything with an indicator light or clock is drawing electricity. You should also close windows to prevent heat from escaping and wasting natural gas and fuel oil consumption. Remind your colleagues to shut down computers, printers, monitors, and smart boards and unplug chargers, microwaves, coffee makers, etc. — anything that is plugged in and will not be used over the break.

The DOE spends over $240 million on electricity, natural gas, steam, and fuel oil per year. Every action you take means dollars saved for the City, but more importantly, contributes to the City’s energy and greenhouse gas reduction goal of 35% by 2025. You should also implement energy saving practices at night and over the weekend, when your classrooms, staff lounges, and libraries will not be used. Visit the DCAS website for more information on the City’s Energy Budget.

Let’s Cut Carbs...Our Carbon footprint, that is.

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Zero Waste Schools Website & Awards*

This new and exciting social media platform is where students and teachers can celebrate what they are doing to protect our environment, through photos, videos and post — and the best part is you can WIN PRIZES UP TO $10,000!

Follow the steps below to get started

In order to enter the contests you must first have a ZWS account.

- **To start an account** obtain your school’s unique validation code, by emailing schools@dsny.nyc.gov, with your school’s name, address & borough.
- Go to the Zero Waste Schools website: www.nyc.gov/zws
- **Once you sign up**, you will receive a confirmation email — please follow steps in email to confirm your account.
- **To register** for the any of the 5 contests, click on the Contest Page, then click ‘register’.
- **Begin posting!** — Encourage your students to post too!

Participate in a contest:

- **DSNY’s Commissioner’s Cup**
  - A brand new recognition for sustainability efforts, projects and significant improvement in school recycling, chosen by the DSNY Commissioner’s Office.

- **Citizen’s Committee of NYC’s (CCNYC) Team Up to Clean up Contest**
  - Rewards schools that conceive, design and implement effective cleanup and beautification projects, including school gardens.

- **Materials for the Arts’ (MFTA) Reduce & Reuse Contest**
  - Recognizes and awards creative reuse projects in schools.

- **Recycling Champions Program’s (RCP) Super Recyclers Contest**
  - Recognizes and awards exemplary recycling programs in schools.

- **Zero Waste Schools (ZWS) Challenge**
  - A brand new contest specifically for the first 100 Zero Waste Schools. Click here, for more info on the ZWS program.

*For additional information on the Zero Waste Schools Website and Awards, click here
Solar Schools Education Program Kickoff

The NYC DOE Office of Sustainability and the STEM Department are partnering this year on the NYC Solar Schools Education Program! DOE is working with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) on a mayoral initiative to install a combined 100 MW of solar photovoltaic capacity on city-owned buildings, per goals outlined in OneNYC, New York City's plan for sustainability and resiliency.

A key goal of the program is to connect the solar installations on school buildings to curriculum, allowing teachers to use solar as a tool for students to learn about renewable energy and sustainability, and as a catalyst for STEM learning. As part of this program, teachers have the opportunity to participate in a 3 day professional development training series focused on solar energy with Solar One- a non-profit green energy education organization. All participating teachers receive training, curriculum and other resources needed to integrate solar content and activities. The workshops take place in all 5 boroughs with programs at the elementary, middle, and high school level.

The NYC Solar Schools workshop includes a combination of hands-on activities that give context for why solar is important, such as an introduction to power plants, fossil fuels, and climate change- and hands-on solar activities and experiments. This workshop series will run again during the 2017/2018 school year so keep an eye out for sign-ups for next Fall! To learn more about curriculum and resources from The Green Design Lab click here!

Opportunities

Join Solar One and DEP for a free two-day professional development training workshop series to explore the water quality and history of the Newtown Creek and the New York Harbor. During the workshop teachers will: Learn to conduct water quality tests, explore Solar One’s K-12 Water curriculum, participate in hands-on interactive activities, receive a classroom set of water quality testing supplies, and learn about the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant with NYC DEP. Click here to register! Deadline: March 30

Excellence in School Wellness Award — The New York City Health Department’s Excellence in School Wellness Award recognizes elementary schools for their efforts to create healthy school environments through policies and practices that promote children’s health and academic achievement. All DOE elementary schools are eligible to apply. Click here to apply. Deadline: April 1

Action for Healthy Kids Grant for Edible School Gardens — grants up to $1,000 will be awarded to around 600 K-12 schools to support physical activity and nutrition initiatives. Edible school gardens are an example of an eligible project. Deadline: April 7

National Healthy Schools Award — The Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s National Healthy Schools Award celebrates schools that work hard to create a healthy environment for students. Winners are acknowledged as America’s Healthiest Schools. Click here for more information and to apply. Deadline: April 14

Dorothy Stout Professional Development Grants - are awards up to $750 to K-12 teachers to support participation in Earth science classes or workshops, attendance at professional scientific or science education meetings, participation in Earth science field trips, or purchase of Earth science materials for classroom use. Deadline: April 15

Apply Now for Exciting Science and STEM Programs this Summer! Pre-K through grade 12 students can apply now to attend exciting science and STEM programs being offered this summer at the NYC DOE’s Environmental Study Center and variety of NYC landmark locations such as the NYC Center for Space Science Education, the Bronx Zoo. Programs feature 1-week camps, high school internships, and a 4-week college credit bearing course. Click here for more information and here to apply. Application deadline is April 28.

CELF’s Summer Institute in Education for Sustainability (EfS) is a transformative professional development experience. In addition to hands-on workshops, the Institute will feature presenters from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, MIT’s Climate Interactive, ProPublica and NYC Schools who participated in CELF’s Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action Project. The Institute will help participants incorporate sustainability concepts into existing curriculum by modelling engaging activities and providing extensive case studies. 10 Full Scholarships are available courtesy of the Office of Sustainability! Apply Here. Deadline: May 1

Resources

Are you looking for ways to implement curriculum on food and sustainability? Download the Earth Day, Every Day Food Toolkit from Gotham Grazer! This toolkit gives a detailed overview of the history of agriculture, organic and sustainable farming practices, and the benefits of plant-based diets and buying locally/seasonally. The toolkit provides a number of thought questions and group activities within each section, as well as resources for how to produce food maps and for creating real-life community projects. For more information, you can contact Deborah Carlin at dcarlin@earthdayny.org

Recycle a Bicycle Shop’s Bike Repair Professional Development Course — Friday, March 31 at Recycle a Bicycle Shop 5th and 46th Avenue Long Island City, Queens. In partnership with Bike New York and NYC DOE, Recycle a Bicycle Shop’s professional development day teaches schools to integrate math/ELA and data tracking procedures into their biking programs. Email quinzzannon@gmail.com to RSVP.

Upcoming Events

Check out our website for an updated list of events!