

11.18.13

Dear Staff and Community,

See below for our bi-monthly green schools update and resources from the “Cambridge Green Schools Initiative” and our Office for Sustainability. Resources for teachers, students, & staff, as well as information on current energy, recycling, and composting projects are available online at our Office for Sustainability website: <http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/Sustainability>.

Thanks!

Kristen

Tip of the Week: For small-scale composting, freeze food waste items before disposal. **Why? ...**It's a simple way to store food waste until you're ready to compost it.

[Thanks for Recycling! September and October Recycling Reports](#)

Did you know that in September and October all the schools recycled over 130,000 pounds of paper, cardboard and containers? How cool is that?!

Follow this link to check out how your school is doing with recycling:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/recyclingandtrash/aboutrecycling/Schools/recyclingreports.aspx>. Note that the report shows the percentage of reports received; if we didn't get all your school's reports it will be less than 100% (one report of five missing is 80%, two reports missing is 60%, etc.).

Thanks for doing your part and making sure that everything that can be recycled ends up in the recycling bins. Have recycling questions, or want a recycling presentation in your classroom? Contact Meryl Brott from DPW at mbrott@cambridgema.gov or x4836.

[Energy-Savings Projects](#)

Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce energy use across the district! Our Office for Sustainability utilizes software and inputs data to record & analyze energy use for each of our schools and school administrative buildings and to implement energy efficiency projects ranging from lighting retrofits to boiler recommissioning projects. This helps us to categorize and implement building projects, which we carry out in partnership with the City. To stay posted on our school's projects, please visit our sustainability page: <http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/energy>.

[Announcing Cambridge's Curbside Pilot Program!](#)

Do you know any families or households in Cambridge who may want to partake in Cambridge's Curbside Composting "pilot program?" Have you heard the good news? Cambridge is starting a pilot program for curbside compost pickup! The 1-year pilot will run from April 7, 2014~to March 30, 2015.~The City's goal is to recruit 500-800 participating households by December 20, 2013. Participation is voluntary. This is an exciting initiative for the Cambridge community as we become more green and sustainable. Eligible residences must be in a specific area of North Cambridge, have city trash service, and be single family homes up to multi-family buildings with no more than 12 units.

If you want to sign up, please:

- *Check that you live in the green area on the [map](#) (click to enlarge to see street names).~
- *Your residence must get City trash service.~
- *Your home must be a single family, or a multi-family with up to 12 units.~
- *~Complete the “I’m Interested” form at [CambridgeMA.Gov/CompostPickup](#).
- * Sign up by December 20, 2013. Space is limited to 800 households.

[Workshops on Transportation Options for Schools](#)

Are your staff members or students interested in participating in a free sustainable transportation / biking workshop? If so, please e-mail Jen Lawrence: jlawrence@cambridgema.gov.

[Opt out of Unwanted Mail](#)

Do you get unwanted mail at your school or in your mailbox? You can opt out of mailings from over 4000 companies/marketers with Catalog Choice and help our school district reduce waste. For example, you can stop getting weekly circulars from Global Direct, they will honor opt-out requests, so add them to “your choices”. Just register for FREE at <https://cambridge.catalogchoice.org> to create an account to start cleaning out your mailbox. ~To date, over 3700 Cambridge residents have signed up and opted out of nearly 25,000 different unwanted mailings.

[Educational Resources Online](#)

Visit our Office for Sustainability website, and in orange font on the left hand side of the home page, scroll down to Resources. There are education videos, links to online teaching tools, and other resources! <http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/Sustainability>.

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Cambridge Green Schools Initiative~
<http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/Sustainability>