

Monday, 8.1.11

**Dear Teachers, Staff, Students, Principals, Custodians, and Administration--**

Hello, I hope this e-mail finds you well and enjoying summer.

Below, please find our green **Tip of the Week**, a **Website Update**, a **Green Team Sign-up**, an **Energy Update**, and **Eco-Friendly Back-to-School Preparations**.

- **Tip of the Week:** Compost your food. **Why?** *Because putting food waste in the trash creates methane, a greenhouse gas that is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.*  
(EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/generalinfo.html>)  
*\*If your school is not yet composting and would like to join in the District's composting initiative, please reply to this e-mail with your request.*

- **Website Update:** The School Department has officially launched a sustainability website. As we draw closer to the start of school, the website, in addition to this weekly e-mail, will be your headquarters for sustainability information in the schools. Also, we will be launching CGSI (Cambridge Green Schools Initiative) this fall, with the mission of uniting school building occupants in the sustainability effort. More information to come soon.

1. Sustainability Homepage: <http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/Sustainability>

2. CGSI/Cambridge Green School Initiative: <http://www3.cpsd.us/Sustainability/CGSI/CGSI>

- **Green Team Sign-up:** The Green Team is an environmental club for Massachusetts schools and is free to join. Free resources such as educational posters, lesson plans, and other helpful materials are provided to help your school learn how to reduce waste and reward classes. Teachers can sign up online. Learn more at: [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org).

*--Did you know that this past year two classrooms, one at Peabody and one at Baldwin, joined this club?*

- **Energy Update:** With summer underway, there are several steps you can take to reduce energy use.

- Set air conditioners on Low instead of High
- Turn off non-essential lights
- Close the window shades/blinds
- Use stairs instead of elevators
- Turn off lab equipment or smartboards when not in use
- Unplug appliances when not in use
- Shut off copiers and computers at the end of the day

- **Eco-Friendly Back-to-School Preparations:** We are working at the district level to make sure that operations and preparation for back-to-school and year-round remain environmentally sustainable. In addition, your efforts with your staff and student body, as well as in individual classrooms, matter just as much! When taking into consideration individual purchasing and preparations, look for products that are made from recycled material, re-usable items, and low-energy appliances. Keep sustainability in mind.

*--We will send this reminder again with more details as we draw closer to September.*

**Have a great week.**

**Best,  
Kristen**

Kristen von Hoffmann, CPSD Sustainability Manager