

10.16.14

Dear Schools & Community,

Hello! Hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the fall season.

Our goal is to continue to provide you with classroom, office, and school building environmental resources, sustainability ideas and environmental education, news of what green initiatives are taking place in our schools and around Cambridge, and more! We also want to hear your stories on ways that you are “going green” in your classroom or office – please feel free to reply to this e-mail and let us know!

Together, we have accomplished so much across the school district, and have significantly lowered our impact on the environment over the past four years.

In partnership with the Department of Public Works and other city departments and organizations, just last year our schools recycled 369 tons of material, composted 42 tons of food scraps, and kept nearly 55 truckloads of trash from going to the incinerator or landfill in one year. We hope to exceed those numbers this school year, with your help!

For more info on the Cambridge Green Schools Initiative (CGSI) check out our website: [http://www.cpsd.us/departments/facilities/office\\_for\\_sustainability](http://www.cpsd.us/departments/facilities/office_for_sustainability).

Thanks so much for your continued support of the Cambridge Green Schools Initiative (CGSI)!

-Kristen

\*Tip of the Week: When printing large text files, reduce font size to save paper and ink. **Why?** *Because this saves energy, trees, and minimizes use of chemicals.*

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### Freebies!

*Need a Halloween costume?* Go Green~this~Halloween at the Cambridge Halloween Costume Swap! Bring your complete, gently worn costumes and find a costume that’s “new to you” 10am - 2pm on Saturday, October 18~at Cambridge Community Center 5 Callender St, Cambridge. Costume donations before the event at our drop box at the Cambridge Community Center are

greatly appreciated! Stay up to date and spread the word at~<https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeCostumeSwap>

*Need 3-ring binders?* The Recycling Center at 147 Hampshire St has many gently-used binders to choose from. You can stop by during the Center's open hours (Tu/Th 4-7:30pm, Sat 9am-4pm) or email Meryl at DPW ([mbrott@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mbrott@cambridgema.gov)) for binders to be dropped off at your school.

*Need materials for classroom or art projects?* "Extras for Creative Reuse" is a non-profit supplying teachers with free & inexpensive classroom supplies. Visit them at: 20 Wheeler St, Lynn, MA, 01901 or online at: <http://www.extrasforcreativeuse.org/>

### Go Green Challenge

*Want to help us improve?* Elementary and Upper School teachers, please help us learn about the impact of the Go Green Challenge we ran in the schools last spring, and improve it for this coming year. We'd appreciate hearing from you even if you didn't participate last year. Thank you very much your help! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QRHGYHM>.

### Nature & Outdoors

*Do you enjoy educational walks in nature?* Friends of Alewife Reservation Walks - Wildlife walks sponsored by [FAR](#) impart the history and background to the DCR's Alewife Reservation, a rare urban wild in Cambridge.~ The walks are led by a professional wildlife assessor, Dave Brown. Tours last 2 hours.~ To prepare for the tour, or to get a "Virtual Tour", [click here](#). Website: <http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/#calendar>.

*Are you a tree-lover?* The Junior Forester Program is open to all local youth ages 5-13 years that are interested in adopting trees in their neighborhood.~~[Learn more about our Jr. Forester program](#). The~[National Arbor Day Foundation](#)~has recognized Cambridge with its Tree City USA award for the 18<sup>th</sup>~consecutive year. Way to go Cambridge. City of Cambridge partner National Arbor Day Foundation: [Help Replant Trees](#).

*Want to volunteer at Fresh Pond?* Join our weed-warrior crew! We are Fresh Pond citizens dedicated to keeping invasive plants at bay for the benefit of wildlife, water and humans alike. No experience or long-term commitment necessary! All tools are provided; sturdy shoes, pants, long-sleeves and a water bottle are strongly recommended. Contact: Kirsten Lindquist at (617) 349-6489 / [klindquist@cambridgema.gov](mailto:klindquist@cambridgema.gov).

### Transportation

*Are you interested in leadership in transportation?* The City of Cambridge invites people interested in transportation infrastructure, education, and safety, to apply to become members of the Bicycle or Pedestrian Committees.~The Bicycle Committee works to improve conditions for bicyclists in the City of Cambridge and to promote bicycling as a means of transportation. The

Pedestrian Committee works to promote walking and to help create a more comfortable, safe, and pleasant environment for walking in Cambridge.

Applications are sought from dedicated individuals who live or work in Cambridge. ~For more details on the work, and how to apply go to:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/News/2014/10/bicycleandpedestriancommitteeslookingformembers.aspx>. Application Deadline --Friday, October 31, 2014.

### Environmental Curriculum

*Would you like a presentation on environment, recycling, or composting for your class?* If so, please contact Meryl Brott and she would be happy to work with your class and give a presentation! Contact: [mbrott@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mbrott@cambridgema.gov).

*Does your class want to become a "Green Team?"* The Green Team is an environmental club you can sign your class up for! The program is for Massachusetts students, grades K-12. Sign up your class and receive educational tools, such as a classroom poster, lesson plans, recycling tips and suggested activities. Each class that takes the Green Team Pledge and receives a Certificate of Recognition and is eligible to win great prizes. Learn more and sign up at: [www.thegreenteam.org](http://www.thegreenteam.org).

*Want more resources for teaching?* Cambridge Green Schools Initiative website provides education videos, links to online teaching tools, and other resources! Website: <http://www.cpsd.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3042869&pageId=3428485>.

### Recycling & Composting

*Has your school started cafeteria composting yet?* We are working with schools to establish more composting programs. We have 8 schools doing full-scale composting in our school district now! If your school is interested in composting, please reply to this e-mail.

*Do you want to receive less junk mail?* Opt out of unwanted mail. Do you get unwanted mail from retailers, credit card companies, or cable/phone companies? You can opt out of mailings from over 4000 companies with Catalog Choice and help 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!

### Water

*Do you and your students drink enough water?* In partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance, our schools are working to increase student and staff use of re-usable water bottles, bubblers, and tap water. Water is a great drink choice for kids. It is calorie-free and low cost from your nearest tap! Water is also the best drink to keep kids hydrated. Make sure that water is available all day. Kids should drink plenty of water when they are playing and being active. It is more sustainable

to bring in a re-usable water bottle and fill up at the tap/bubbler than to buy and throw away plastic water bottles.

## Energy

*Do you want to learn about solar feasibility? The [Cambridge Solar Tool](#) provides a web-based interactive tool to find out the potential for installing solar photovoltaic systems on rooftops in the city.~ The tool also evaluates the financial feasibility of installations and makes comparisons to alternative investments.~ The tool is designed by Modern Development Studio and based on the research of the [MIT Sustainable Design Lab](#) led by Dr. Christoph Reinhart.~ The City's [Cambridge Energy Alliance](#) program can assist interested property owners with finding installers and understanding the financial aspects.*

*Does your class want to measure electricity in school? Then check out "Kill-A-Watt Meters" at the Main Public Library where you can borrow a "kill-a-watt" meter to measure how much electricity your class, office, or home appliances and devices use.~ The meters come with a guide on how to use them and information on how to save energy.~ The meter kits and guide were developed by the [Sprouts of Hope](#) group formerly based at the King Open School.*

Thank you!

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Cambridge Green Schools Initiative~  
[http://www.cpsd.us/departments/facilities/office\\_for\\_sustainability](http://www.cpsd.us/departments/facilities/office_for_sustainability)