

## January 16, 2025 - Plan Earth Day Events & Ensure you qualify for SMRP grants

- **Municipalities need to confirm that their schools are recycling per their Annual Solid Waste and Recycling Survey submissions to MassDEP**

### AGENDA

Screen Share - Todd

Record Meeting - Todd

Opening 10:00 pm (10 minutes)

- Greeting and welcome new members – discuss why this group was formed

This series of informal discussions will involve municipalities that have an investment in waste reduction and diversion in K-12 schools. Members of this working group will meet virtually four times over the course of the school year with other municipal officials and volunteers to review topics, share experiences and learn from peers while working on the funding, marketing, implementation and management of school waste reduction and diversion programs. Best practices will be created in this working group. Each municipality will work with their own school district to implement these programs. Subcommittees will be formed as needed to work on specific projects pertinent to implementing the goals of the working group.

- Things to note
  - o All municipal buildings, including schools, are required to have recycling in place in order for the municipality to qualify for MassDEP grants  
SMRP Minimum Eligibility Criteria Document: Waste Ban Compliance
    - Municipal applicants must demonstrate compliance with MassDEP's waste disposal bans by certifying that paper, cardboard, bottle and can recycling is available in all municipal buildings, including schools, or will be within 30 days of award notification.
    - o Regional entities must certify that paper, cardboard, bottle and can recycling is available in all its offices and meeting spaces.
    - <https://www.mass.gov/doc/certification-of-smrp-minimum-eligibility-criteria/download>
  - o In addition to Green SWoRD, the Green Team is another resource
    - Schools must be registered annually: <https://thegreenteam.org/forms/registration/>
      - starting new renewal process where former registrants will get a renewal email
    - Eligible for equipment including recycling bins, yard composter, resources including school curriculum on waste reduction programs - equipment distribution is today!
  - o Green SWoRD and the Green Team will be tabling at:
    - Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) Conference on March 12 - <https://massmees.org/2025-annual-conference/>
  - o The MA DEP Reduce & Reuse webinar is on Wednesday, January 22nd at 1pm. Please register in advance here:
    - The meeting will feature recent developments for reusable foodservice ware in Massachusetts, including Best Practices for Reusable Takeout Containers and Re:Dish's debut in the Greater Boston area (hint: they're a third-party warewashing facility!). MassDEP staff will also share upcoming grant opportunities and updates since our last meeting.
    - <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdu2sqz4rHtO5mRKajZHj3PhQeJYviAjv#/registration>
- Google site:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/ma-green-sword-k-12-schools/2024-2025-home>

- Google group:  
<https://groups.google.com/g/ma-green-sword>
- Earth Day - April 22

**Agenda: summary from working groups; check in with members**

**Update on Subgroups**

- **School Organics Collection for On-Site & Off-Site Composting - 10:10 (20 minutes)**
  - o Led by Missy Hollenback and Todd Koep, MassDEP MACs for SE Districts 2 & 3
  - o **Presentation** *Derek Adams, Franklin Public Schools, Environmental Affairs Coordinator*
  - o Next Organics meeting is February 6 at 1:30pm
- **Institutionalizing School Waste Reduction & Diversion Policies - Discussion 10:30 (10 minutes)**
  - o Led by Julia Greene, MassDEP MACs for NE District 3
  - o Composting Policy work and include information from Brookline Composting
  - o Next Policy meeting is January 22 at 10am
- **Transitioning from Single Use Disposable to Reusable Food Serviceware - Discussion 10:40 am (5 minutes)**
  - o Led by Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Organizer with ReThink Disposable
  - o Next Reusables meeting is scheduled for February 17 at 2pm
- **School Sustainability Program Kickoff & Events – Discussion 10:45am (5 minutes)**
  - o Led by Irene Congdon, MassDEP MACs for Central District
  - o Earth Day
    - Earth Day website: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>
  - o Next Events meeting is March 6 at 9:30am

Segway to....

**Earth Day - Discussion 10:50pm (35 minutes)**

**Closing 11:25am (5 minutes)**

- Recruit for all subgroups
  - o Need new members for the new school year
- Next Green SWoRD Quarterly Meeting – April 3 at 10am - Register here:
  - o <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrfuqpqz0sGtSFsS8u8OLCmTLQw73RcOPK>