



**SUPER
RECYCLERS**
**REDUCE
& REUSE**
**TEAMUP^{TO}
CLEANUP**

2013 WINNERS

NYC schools compete for most exemplary applied learning sustainability project within their borough and grade division. To receive an award, project entries were assessed by a panel of judges and had to exceed minimum score requirements; some categories did not produce a winner.

	Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide & Borough Winner	\$10,000	PS 301K
	Intermediate	Queens	Citywide & Borough Winner Queens Golden Shovel	\$11,000	IS 204 Oliver Wendell Holmes
	Intermediate	Brooklyn	Borough Winner	\$5,000	PS 89 Cypress Hills
	Intermediate	Brooklyn	Borough Runner-Up	\$2,500	IS 240 Andries Hudde
	Intermediate	Bronx	Honorable Mention	\$1,250	Baychester Middle School X532
	Intermediate	Bronx	Notable Student Effort	(n/a)	MS 181 Pablo Casals
	High School	Manhattan	Honorable Mention	\$1,250	Office of Adults & Continuing Education – Region 4
	High School	Manhattan	Notable Student Effort	(n/a)	Stuyvesant High School

	Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide & Borough Winner	\$10,000	PS 46 E C Blum
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Borough Runner-Up (tie)	\$2,500	Success Academy Cobble Hill K129
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Borough Runner-Up (tie)	\$2,500	PS 146 Brooklyn New School
	Elementary	Manhattan	Borough Winner	\$5,000	PS 199 Jessie Isador Straus
	Elementary	Manhattan	Borough Runner-Up	\$2,500	PS 89 Liberty School
	Elementary	Staten Island	Honorable Mention; Staten Island Golden Shovel	\$2,250	PS 57 Hubert H Humphrey
	Intermediate	Brooklyn	Citywide & Borough Winner	\$10,000	MS 126 John Ericsson Magnet School for Environmental Engineering
	High School	Queens	Citywide & Borough Winner	\$10,000	Maspeth High School
	High School	Bronx	Borough Winner	\$5,000	Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation X372
	High School	Manhattan	Honorable Mention	\$1,200	Stuyvesant High School

	Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide & Borough Winner	\$10,000	PS 107 John W Kimball Learning Center
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Borough Runner-Up	\$2,500	Brooklyn Arbor School K414
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Honorable Mention	\$1,200	PS 132 The Conselyea School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Brooklyn Golden Shovel	\$1,000	PS 32 Samuel Sprole Mills
	Elementary	Bronx	Borough Winner; NYRP Rose Award	\$5,000	The Family School X443
	Elementary	Manhattan	Borough Winner	\$5,000	PS 166 Richard Rogers School of the Arts & Technology
	High School	Staten Island	Citywide & Borough Winner Bronx Golden Shovel	\$11,000	Cardinal Spellman High School

NYC Compost Project "Golden Shovel Awards" for Master School Composter

New York Restoration Project "Rose Award"



NYC
Recycles

NYC Department of Sanitation
Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability

nyc.gov/goldenapple

GAA-2013WINNERS



2013

SUPER RECYCLERS

**honors schools with outstanding recycling programs
with school-wide involvement and support.**

Citywide & Brooklyn Borough Winner (\$10,000), Elementary Division

PS 310K THE SCHOOL FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Learning and Recycling! On opening the doors to their brand new school building, PS 310K decided it was imperative for their students to learn the importance of recycling beginning on the first day of school. The school equipped each classroom and common area with labeled cans for garbage and recyclables. PS 310K also took great care to make sure that students learned how to properly sort cafeteria waste. Teachers incorporated recycling into lesson plans, especially Social Studies and Science. This has been a tremendous schoolwide effort, with support and participation from teachers and students alike. Judges' comment: "excellent school setup." [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Citywide & Queens Borough Winner (\$10,000) & Queens Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000), Intermediate Division

IS 204 OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES MAGNET SCHOOL FOR LIVING GREEN IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY

Green Team Challenge. Students from the IS 204 Green Team decided to put into practice what they learn in the classroom by reducing the school's waste. They did this by auditing the building to identify target areas, revamping the paper recycling program, increasing milk carton recycling in the cafeteria, finding recycling programs to help divert other recyclables (such as e-waste and other plastics), and implementing a composting system. Students created a grading system for classroom recycling (modeled after the restaurant grading system in NYC), educated 6th graders on carton recycling, and held a carton recycling challenge. They also maintained an indoor worm bin and starting composting outdoors. Extensive multi-discipline lesson plans support these efforts. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Brooklyn Borough Winner (\$5,000), Intermediate Division

PS 89 CYPRESS HILLS

Los Recicladores Latinos. The Latino Recyclers is a group of 15 (Latino) male students who meet three times a week as part of their school service-learning project. Over the past two years, the Recicladores Latinos have been working with the school building manager and science teacher to improve the school's recycling program. This presentation outlines most of their work. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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Brooklyn Borough Runner-Up (\$2,500), Intermediate Division

ANDRIES HUDE IS 240

Expanding Recycling: Every Room, One Bottle at a Time. In 2012 this school won Honorable Mention for their efforts to recycle bottles and cans. This year, the mission was to recycle more. They established a recycling team and started recycling from the first day of school. The recycling team has grown and attends school events to spread the word about recycling. The school currently recycles bottles and paper in each classroom, and all offices and common rooms. They used some of the prize money to purchase bins for paper recycling. Students tally the amount of bags placed at the curbside to measure results. Judges' comment: "Great improvements from last year; unfortunately they have still not instituted milk carton recycling in their cafeteria." [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Bronx Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,250), Intermediate Division

BAYCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Green Team Recycling Initiative. The student-led Green Team launched its recycling initiative in the 2012–2013 academic year. They developed and implemented a program where recycling is standardized and monitor each room weekly, rating for how well they comply with recycling requirements. The program has increased the level of commitment to recycling across the school community. Judges' comment: "These students set up an exemplary recycling program in their school, located in a campus building; however the building staff is not keeping recyclables separated from trash." [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Bronx Borough Notable Student Effort, Intermediate Division

MS 181 PABLO CASALS

Green Team Recycling Initiative. MS 181 was a Golden Apple Award recipient in 2003, but in the years following, the recycling program fell into disarray. This year, under new leadership and the help of a group of dedicated and motivated student volunteers, the school began its "Going Green" initiative to educate students and staff about recycling and trash, to make it as easy and efficient as possible, and to make it a school-wide collaboration and dedication. The cafeterias were reorganized for efficiency; a poster contest creates excitement and prevent complacency; student teams meet regularly to fulfill specific tasks by grade. Students collect recyclables from rooms, for custodians to set out. Judges' comment: "strong student effort; no recycling in main office, no evidence that materials are set out separately." [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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Manhattan Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,250), High School Division

OFFICE OF ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION—REGION 4

Let's Save Our Planet Together. ESL (English as a Second Language) students embarked on a journey involving learning the language necessary to communicate and discuss environmental issues. They learned more by visiting Materials for the Arts and through reading and studying about environmental themes and topics. The class then took action by working on improving the recycling practices at their site and in their own homes. Finally, they wanted to produce something that could be shared in their communities, so they created their first English-language video: "Let's Save Our Planet Together." [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Manhattan Borough Notable Student Effort, High School Division

STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

Stuyvesant Super Recyclers. The Environmental Club, with the support of the principal, replaced the lone garbage bins on three of eight floors with recycling stations, and have been actively collecting and recording the amount of waste and recyclables. In addition, the club has raised almost \$500 by sending in non-recyclable materials, such as candy wrappers and potato chip bags, to Terracycle for upcycling. Judges' comment: "this program is off to a good start on a few floors; but the recycling bins are contaminated since they're not paired with garbage bins." [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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Citywide & Brooklyn Borough Winner (\$10,000), Elementary Division

EC BLUM PS 46

Don't Throw That Out!—Re-envisioning Trash. This project was comprised of two main initiatives: reducing waste by reusing and re-purposing items destined for the landfill, and reducing consumption of packaging materials and environmental pollutants by replacing wasteful toxic classroom cleaning products with do-it-yourself sustainable alternatives. Both initiatives are designed to develop environmental stewardship, creative problem solving, teamwork, and the critical thinking necessary to envision solutions to contemporary issues on both a local and global scale. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Brooklyn Borough Runner-Up (Tie) (\$2,500), Elementary Division

SUCCESS ACADEMY COBBLE HILL

Starry Night Bottle Cap Mosaic Project. Since its founding in September 2012, this school community, comprised of 172 kindergarten and first graders, has collected bottle caps. As a school, they began a discourse about how one of an artist's jobs is to have an imaginative eye and think outside the paintbrush, finding new ways to create art from everyday objects and cultivate the ability to see beauty and potential where others see junk. Over the course of four months, young artists collected, cleaned, and sorted tens of thousands of caps, while exploring how our waste system works and thinking about why sustainability is so important. They combined this with a study of post-impressionist artist, Vincent Van Gogh. The community of young artists explored these themes of sustainability and collaboration and more as they moved towards their ultimate goal of creating a large-scale bottle cap mosaic for the entryway of the school. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Brooklyn Borough Runner-Up (Tie) (\$2,500), Elementary Division

THE BROOKLYN NEW SCHOOL

BNS Reduces and Reuses! At PS 146 students constantly challenge themselves to improve and expand sustainability efforts. Students learn to mindfully take responsibility for our natural resources, and to use and reuse wisely. Everyone does whatever they can to reduce our impact on the Earth, learning and helping each other as they go, in grade-appropriate ways that are incorporated into the curriculum. Projects include reducing lunchroom waste (pulp trays instead of Styrofoam, paper and cardboard, plastic bags, compostable food, trash bags, reusing juice pouches and other beverage containers for art projects); "Resparkle Club," Recycling Olympics; and annual EcoRama. This school is an NYCCP Compost Demo Site. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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Manhattan Borough Winner (\$5,000), Elementary Division

PS 199 JESSIE ISADOR STRAUS

Bringing It Home. Healthy Child Healthy Planet committee worked with teachers to organize a variety of initiatives to reduce the waste load, focusing on building awareness at school and at home. Multiple student projects included a Breakfast for the Planet cafeteria waste sort, used book drive to help a library impacted by Hurricane Sandy, Soles 4 Souls shoe drive during a fundraising dance performance, bottle cap collection for reuse, and a challenge to reduce the use of disposable plastic bags at lunch. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Manhattan Borough Runner-Up (\$2,500), Elementary Division

PS 89 LIBERTY SCHOOL

Zero Waste. PS89 has extended cafeteria recycling and composting, and is now expanding recycling school-wide, successfully creating a school community atmosphere that strives to achieve as close to Zero Waste as possible. Initiatives include expanding the cafeteria waste-sorting system; establishing bi-monthly Zero Waste Fridays; forming the 5th Grade Student Green Team; expanding student involvement in recycling efforts with the Cafeteria Rangers Program, and to classrooms and public areas through an Earth Day initiative; forming the Lower Manhattan Green Schools Collective, sharing knowledge and resources with other neighborhood schools; and securing a new tray composting source. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Staten Island Borough Honorable Mention (\$2,250) & Staten Island Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000), Elementary Division

PS 57 HUBERT H HUMPHREY

Green Team Reuse and Reduce Project. PS 57 continues to create new and innovative recycling projects year after year. Students, faculty, and the community donate used items to ship to the war-torn country of Liberia in memory of former student Boimah Cooper, who came to America with a dream to help his village. PS 57 supplies each classroom with a scrap paper collection box and vermicompost bin. The school uses double-sided paper for copies, using the internet for internal memos, and even created a school Facebook page to reduce paper waste. They are now in the process of setting up a kiddie recycling cafeteria waste station for students to practice sorting recyclables in order to prepare for the full food waste compost collection project. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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Citywide & Brooklyn Borough Winner (\$10,000), Intermediate Division

JOHN ERICSSON MS 126 MAGNET SCHOOL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Reduce, Reuse, Re-Create! With large amounts of packing materials entering the school, the school utilized environmental engineering programs to teach our students ways to reduce and reuse materials. The Green Team fused learning with art, science, and technology to improve the school's recycling programs, and reduce the purchase of new materials, preventing waste. They visited MFTA to learn about decomposition; built science projects, including an LED sign; visited the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to learn about plants and built a soda-bottle terrarium; analyzed their own carbon footprints; inspired by the work of El Anatsui at the Brooklyn Museum, put on a reused materials fashion show. The efforts culminated in a showcase of their Reduce & Reuse projects at the Go Green Greenpoint festival in May. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Citywide & Queens Borough Winner (\$10,000), High School Division

MASPETH HIGH SCHOOL

Maspeth Green Club Commits to Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. Maspeth Green Clubbers committed to making their new permanent high school a leader in sustainability, seeking to improve their school community and surrounding communities in Queens and Manhattan, with a long list of projects including sustainability promotion, recycling program coordination, electricity reduction, neighborhood and campus beautification, "Surviving Progress" documentary screening, participating in the Ban The Bag conference, developing an anti-litter public service announcement, school and cafeteria composting, gardening and greenhouse building, and a Maspeth recycling event. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Bronx Borough Winner (\$5,000), High School Division

URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION X372

From Trash to Art. After a field trip to MFTA (Materials for the Arts) students were inspired by artist Beth Garrett's sculptures made out of plastic shopping bags. They decided they could create sculptures using bags collected from the student body, teachers, and staff. Sticking to the theme of the school, wildlife conservation, they saved plastic bags and other repurposed items from landfills to create large heads of animals. Beth came to help students with the creations. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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Manhattan Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,250), High School Division

STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

Cafeteria Flip Tap and Stack. In fall 2012, Environmental Club students started working at nearby PS89 during their lunch period to help the elementary school kids with their “Flip, Tap, and Stack” program to neatly bag lunch trays. The students were amazed by how much less lunchtime garbage that school threw out than their high school did, even though the elementary school is so much smaller. They wanted to implement the same program in their own cafeteria. The goal was to cut down the number of garbage bags going out to the dump every day, and increase the number of bags of milk cartons getting recycled. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



2013

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Citywide & Brooklyn Borough Winner (\$10,000), Elementary Division

PS 107 JOHN W KIMBALL LEARNING CENTER

The Sunshine Garden. Established in 2007, this edible garden enhances more than 300 K–5th graders’ scientific, nutritional, and environmental knowledge, skills, and practices. The garden addresses several needs: the absence of green space on school grounds; educating children about the origin of the food they eat, as well as the particular value of fresh produce in their diets; bringing students into the outdoors for hands-on learning; and moving toward a school lunch program with healthier, less-processed foods. PS 107 teachers across grades engage students in gardening activities and related classwork. Students start seeds in the classroom; sow, plant, and harvest an array of produce; help maintain the garden; and work on garden-related projects in the classroom including studying plant life and making salads from garden produce. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Brooklyn Borough Runner-Up (\$2,500), Elementary Division

BROOKLYN ARBOR K414

Arbor Day Celebration and Day of Service Learning. Global Kids helped plan a day of service learning, conducting a large neighborhood cleanup; SolarOne led composting workshops with all classes, and donated worm bins that were adopted by two classes. Whole Foods donated 100 bananas and apples; students composted the cores and peels. The Human Impacts Society helped students clean, aerate, and plant in local tree beds around the school. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Brooklyn Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,250), Elementary Division

PS 132 THE CONSELYEA SCHOOL

The Betty Smith Reading Garden. For the past 5 years, PS 132 has been partnering with our local public library branch (immortalized in Betty Smith’s *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*) to revitalize their backyard into a summer reading garden for the community. Using money raised from the annual Penny Harvest, PreK through 2nd grade students work on expanding and maintaining the garden every spring. This project is a culmination of a year-long program that combines Character Education with Service Learning. Lesson plans and art projects included history of the neighborhood, collographs, a mural, and culminated in a presentation ceremony attended by Betty Smith’s daughter. The school collaborated with other local organizations and businesses. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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Brooklyn Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000)

PS 32 SAMUEL SPROLE MILLS

Build Communication, Relationships, Curricular Development. The school's Garden Committee concentrated on ways to increase communication and build relationships with the teachers so that the garden could support their curricular development. By meeting with the teachers, researching curriculum, indentifying and paying for specific Professional Developments, and engaging the students and their families in garden-related activities such as a Garden Day and a separate Build Day, participation and enthusiasm for the garden project was boosted throughout the entire school community, and new connections were formed. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Bronx Borough Winner & NYRP Rose Award (\$5,000), Elementary Division

THE FAMILY SCHOOL X443

The Family Garden. The goal and motive for creating an educational garden was for students to become advocates in their community by promoting what they have learned in school to their family, friends, and community. Creating a garden will not only inspire healthier changes in the entire school, but the entire community. The garden will teach children and youth about empowerment, community responsibility, and how to connect positively with neighbors. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Manhattan Borough Winner (\$5,000), Elementary Division

PS 166 RICHARD RODGERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Flower Power—How We Beautified Our Community. Ongoing since 2005, parents and students in PS 166's Gardening Committee care for the street trees in front of the school; they plant bulbs, clean the pits, and water the trees. In 2007 they built and installed tree guards, and placed plants in their Reading Garden. In 2010, with grant funding from the NYC Council, the Committee purchased soil, furniture, and equipment, and began transforming the school's Reading Garden into an edible garden/ outdoor classroom/ green playspace for the entire school community. The Kindergarten yard, renovated in 2009, was also enhanced with flowering bushes, fruit trees, and beds of herbs. In March 2013, as part of efforts to connect more grades and families to the garden, a Kindergarten gardening program and a "Garden Club" were launched. A campaign to rid the block of dog waste is also underway. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



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**Citywide & Bronx Borough Winner & Bronx Golden Shovel Award (\$10,000),
High School Division**

CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

United We Compost! Students successfully composted using three different methods. Organic waste from the school cafeteria was recycled using fermentation (“bokashi” method). Students conducted an outdoor clean-up of the community garden, and placed organic waste in traditional compost bins. Students also tried vermicomposting with homemade worm bins. Compost will be used to enrich the soil in the school gardens. Three gardens were set up and maintained in the reflective and community areas, with vertical garden structures for growing herbs and native plants indigenous to New York City. The community garden is for vegetables with a living wall on the fence.

[Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)