

# SUPER RECYCLERS



Queens Borough  
Honorable Mention  
Elementary Division

PS 29 Q

## 2015 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to help make New York City shine.



City of New York  
Department of Sanitation  
Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability  
[nyc.gov/recycle](http://nyc.gov/recycle)

**NYC**  
Recycles

# 2015 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

(This sheet prepared for judges' use by DSNY BRS)



**ID Info:** 15021  
**School:** PS 29 Q  
**Grade Division:** LM  
**Borough:** Q  
**Affiliation:** DOE

**Cash Prize:** \$1,000  
**Super Recyclers Award:** Honorable Mention

(for borough Master School Composter)  
**Golden Shovel Award**

## Super Recyclers project entry

### PS 29 Goes Green!

PS 29Q transformed from a school that did not recycle, to a school that is now excited, aware, and recycling throughout all areas of the school. The entire school community worked together to bring their recycling program to life, with student Green Team members leading the way. Students labeled bins, posted flyers, held assemblies to model proper recycling procedures, monitored classrooms, and gave weekly rewards to classrooms that recycle properly. The Green Team collected data, noticed trends, and found solutions. The custodial staff worked with the Department of Sanitation to make sure the school was in compliance with setout and collection rules. The project entry showcased educational tie-ins, student's work, and collaboration.

### Weblink final

[http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/golden-apple-awards/GA15\\_SR\\_LM\\_Q\\_Q029\\_PS29Q\\_entry.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/golden-apple-awards/GA15_SR_LM_Q_Q029_PS29Q_entry.pdf)

**School Population: total #** 800

**Core Group:**  **Total Participating:**

### Prior Year Entries:

first entry

### Current Entries

15:SR-hon

### Collaborations

- NYC Organics Collection
- NYC Compost Project
- GrowNYC RCP
- GrowNYC Grow To Learn
- MFTA
- NWF Eco-Schools
- NYRP MillionTreesNY
- NYRP Rose
- Citizens Comm for NYC

### School Contact Information:

**Phone:** 718-886-5111

**Address:** 125-10 23 Avenue  
College Point

**Block&Lot:** 4042290014

**DOE Location:** Q029

**DOE Bldg:** Q029

11356

**Contest Coordinator:**

Barbara Podmore

**Principal:**

Jill Leakey

**Sustainability Coord:**

Barbara Podmore, Teacher

**Custodian:**

STEPHEN SCO

# PS 29 Q Goes Green!



## Recycling At our School:

**Paper And Cardboard:** All classrooms, offices, and areas through out the building currently have labeled bins for any paper and cardboard disposal. In 2012, students worked together to ensure all rooms had appropriate materials to dispose of paper and cardboard. Custodians collect the recycled materials using a separated bin to keep the paper completely separate from the trash.

**Metal, Glass, Plastic, and Cartons:** Our school building now has designated recycling areas to properly recycle metals, glass, plastic, and cartons. In the cafeteria, there are also separate bins for students to empty their excess liquids and then place the cartons into the appropriate bin. Blue recycling bins are located in the gym, cafeteria, entrances, auditorium, main office, and other large spaces for school events. Having these bins available to access in many areas helps to ensure students, staff, and visitors are always recycling their plastic, metals, glass, and cartons appropriately.

**Organics:** The school is in the process of implementing a structured organics plan. Currently, a schedule has been created for classrooms to participate in collecting organic waste during lunch periods. Students then add the organics to the compost bin, and we are planning to use the compost to help keep our school garden sufficient next year.

**Recycling Collection and Setout:** Custodians collect all trash, paper, and recyclables in separate bins on a daily basis. The materials are collected in a way to ensure contamination does not occur. The collection bins are connected and set on wheels, so that there is a space for trash, paper, and other recyclables. All waste and recyclables are placed in the designated areas, and on the designated days of collection.

## School Recycling Program Implementation: Before and After

- **Before** the Green Team was established and plans were put in place, the school building did not recycle. All trash, paper, and recyclables were mixed in any bin. Garbage bins in the classrooms did not contain labels on them. Custodial staff did not bother to collect the trash separate from the paper and metal. It was all mixed. Students were not aware of the matter, and teacher's were not motivated to recycle, seeing our custodial staff did not even bother to separate anything as well. In 2012, the student government helped to launch the school's Green Movement. They

began by learning about recycling, and then wrote persuasive essays on why students and staff should recycle. They helped to re-label bins in the classrooms, and even created a rap with the teachers who helped to supervise the Green Team Movement. Although they tried hard to get all students and staff on board, it didn't seem to work. The next step was to assign monitors to help ensure classrooms were recycling throughout the building. Monitors would walk around on a daily basis, and give checks to classes that were recycling properly. Still, majority of the building was not recycling properly. In 2013, the sustainability coordinator began to meet with the staff, including the kitchen and custodians. Meetings with the student monitors took place on a monthly basis to help keep the kids motivated. They would discuss the data of their daily monitoring, notice trends, and find solutions to the problems they encountered together. The school also gave rewards to classrooms that were recycling appropriately each week. In 2014, the monitors were more experienced, and ready for change in the building. The sustainability coordinator sent out memos to the staff to help remind them of proper procedures of recycling through the building. The custodial staff decided to collect the garbage separately, and set it out following the proper requirements. Once teachers and staff began to notice the changes being made by the custodial staff, they were finally on board as well. The Green Team meets monthly to continue their hard work. Majority of the classrooms are recycling properly now, especially that they have bins with labels easier to access in their rooms, and through the entire building.

- **Project Planning:**

- The **plan** was to help teachers, students, and staff have easier access and more knowledge about recycling. Placing bins in all commercial areas of the building, and labeling all other bins properly was the beginning. Working with some staff members, and mostly student members, the school has completely turned around in their recycling habits. To help continue to spread awareness, the Green Team held assemblies and modeled how and what to recycle for the school to see.
- **Student involvement:** From day 1, this has been a student driven project. They helped to spread awareness about recycling by creating flyers to place throughout the building. They performed a rap in front of assemblies to help motivate their peers. They monitor daily, and attend meetings frequently. All students through the school are rewarded for good recycling within their classrooms and through the entire building.
- **Promotion:** This project has been promoted in multiple ways. Staff has been given memos in their mail boxes, as well as emails. Free materials were ordered for three years now for all classrooms to know what to recycle in which bin, and have properly labeled bins. Students performed their 'recycling rap' for the school. Meetings have been held with the students to help classrooms that were still not recycling properly. Classes and students have been rewarded for good habits, to help motivate others. Assemblies have been held to help educate the school, as well as motivate them to recycle better. Students participated in the assemblies, placing different items into the proper receptacles in a game show fashion.

#### **Project Analysis:**

**What Worked?** Educating students and staff on what to recycle definitely made a difference. Placing recycling and trash bins in all large rooms through the building allowed for all members of the building to access the proper receptacle needed. Re-labeling bins to help ensure all classrooms had one trash and one paper recycling bin helped for the custodians to keep their collection separated better. Custodians began to improve after speaking with sanitation about the school, and how the trash was not being separated from the recyclables.

**What didn't work:** In the beginning of the school year, recycling did not work properly due to the amount of bins teachers had in their rooms. Also, the custodians were not collecting the recyclables with the trash, so the rest of the staff in the building did not comply with proper recycling procedures. The entire duration of this movement, the students were the most consistent in recycling in the building.

**Applicability:** If I were to give other schools advice, I would say to start off with a team of people. There is power in numbers. The more support you have, the better results you will get. Although that did take some time in our school, once it happened things turned around quickly. Allowing the students to give input really motivated them as well. They came up with great ideas on how to make our program better. Assigning a monitor per class helps with the classrooms, as well as the cafeteria. Having the students monitor daily, checking the classroom bins was also helpful for us to keep track on who needed more support or maybe more information. Holding educational and engaging assemblies was successful in addressing all classes at one time, as well as using free materials from DSNY. Making sure everyone had easy access to all types of bins, such as trash, plastic and metals, paper, and liquids, ensured for success in recycling in our building.

**Measuring Success:** We have been measuring success by keeping track of the weekly checklists, as well as speaking with the Sanitation Department who collects our trash. Recently they complimented the school's custodial staff on how well the trash was separated and laid out in its designated area.

**Future Plans:** In the future, we plan on becoming a more Green School by continuing to recycle properly, and adding a new focus on how we can re-use materials better. We would also like to conserve more energy and water, and come up with new ways to do so.

Dear Parents,

There will be a recycling meeting on **Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2015** at 2:30 and will be dismissed by 3:30. Please sign the slip below with your child's name, and who will be picking them up. They will be dismissed from the 126<sup>th</sup> street exit by the new Cafeteria.

Please sign and return the bottom of this slip to school as soon as you can. **We will provide a snack and a drink for the students!**

\*Please let us know if your child goes to the Y after school, and if your child goes on bus that day.\*

Thank you for your support! Mrs. Podmore & the Green Team

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I give my child \_\_\_\_\_ permission to stay

after school on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 2:30 to 3:30.

\_\_\_\_\_ will be picking my child up from school that day at 3:30

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Checklist for Daily Monitoring:

## Second Floor Recycling Checklist

If waste is in the correct bin, give a check to that class for the day.

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PK 289					
PK 287					
K-294					
K-217					
K-292					
K-213					
K-288					
1-203					
1-207					
1-209					
1-205					
Tech 219					
4-285					

Art 215					
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## Memo to the Staff from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Dear Staff,

I would like to remind you all to be aware of the bins in your classrooms and around the building.

Every classroom should have 2 garbage cans. One is for paper only, and has a green sticker label. (If trash goes in this one, the paper becomes contaminated and can no longer be recycled.)

The other bin is a trash only bin, and should have a trash only label on it. (Food, wrappers, dirty tissues, paper towels, and all other trash goes in here)

Plastic and metals should be placed in the cans with the Blue Labels on them that are dispersed around the building. (Iced coffee cups go in the blue recycling bins, as well as milk containers and other plastic and metals.)

Classroom teachers can designate a class recycling monitor to bring all plastic and metals to the bins that are in the hallways and throughout the building.

Please remind the students of these procedures when you can! We appreciate all of your help and support in this matter.

Thanks!

Barbara

### Green Team Recycling Monitors 4<sup>th</sup> Period Lunch Schedule 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Floor	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Gurnoor 5-405	Gurnoor 5-405	Leon 5-419	Leon 5-419	Morgan 5-405

	Morgan 5-405	Pavlina 5-405	Ezat Nadir 5-409	Ezat Nadir 5-409	Alex Rjos 5-409
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	Alex Rjos 5-409	Lucia 5-409	Isabella 5-407	Isabella 5-407	Lucia 5-409
	Christine 5-405	Michelle 5-409	Christine 5-405	Pavlina 5-405	Michelle 5-409

**Green Team Recycling Monitors 5<sup>th</sup> Period Lunch Schedule  
4<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Floor	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Anthony C 4-285	Yama 4-319	Christopher 4-413	Jeanne 4-319	Aliyah 4-417
	Joshua 4-285	Ivan 4-319	Angela 4-413	Joshua Q 4-413	Santiago 4-319



