



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

2015 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	Manhattan	Citywide Elementary Winner	\$10,000	PS 130 Hernando De Soto
	Elementary	Staten Island	Borough Winner; Staten Island Golden Shovel	\$6,000	PS 9 Naples Street Elementary
	Elementary	Queens	Borough Winner	\$5,000	PS 221Q The North Hills School
	Elementary	Queens	Borough Runner-Up	\$2,500	PS 144 Col Jeromus Remsen
	Elementary	Queens	Honorable Mention	\$1,000	PS 29 Q
	Intermediate	Queens	Honorable Mention	\$1,000	IS 5 Walter Crowley
	High School	Manhattan	Citywide High School Winner	\$10,000	Stuyvesant High School
	High School	Queens	Honorable Mention	\$1,000	John F Kennedy Jr HS
	High School	Bronx	Honorable Mention	\$1,000	Bronx Theater HS

	Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide Elementary Winner; Brooklyn Golden Shovel	\$11,000	Brooklyn New School PS 146
	Intermediate	Manhattan	Citywide Intermediate Winner; Manhattan Golden Shovel	\$11,000	WHEELS - Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School
	Intermediate	Queens	Borough Winner	\$5,000	IS 125 Thom J McCann Woodside
	High School	Queens	Citywide High School Winner	\$10,000	Maspeth High School
	High School	Queens	Honorable Mention	\$1,000	John F Kennedy Jr HS
	High School	Brooklyn	Honorable Mention	\$1,000	Brownsville Academy High School

	Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide Elementary Winner	\$10,000	Kings Highway Academy
	Elementary	Queens	Borough Winner; Queens Golden Shovel	\$6,000	Alexander Graham Bell School PS 205
	Intermediate	Brooklyn	Citywide Intermediate Winner	\$10,000	Evergreen MS for Urban Exploration
	Intermediate	Brooklyn	Borough Runner-Up	\$2,500	New Voices School of Academic & Creative Arts
	Intermediate	Brooklyn	Honorable Mention	\$1,000	Brooklyn Urban Garden School (BUGS)
	High School	Brooklyn	Citywide High School Winner; NYRP Rose Award	\$10,000	Roy Campanella OTC P721K
	High School	Bronx	Borough Winner	\$5,000	Academy for Career and Living Skills

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-2015 WINNERS



2015

SUPER RECYCLERS

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

Citywide Winner (\$10,000), Elementary Division

PS 130M HERNANDO DE SOTO

Everybody Counts in Recycling Right! PS 130 implemented their new recycling program this year by establishing partnership with GrowNYC Recycling Champions, who helped set up the entire school with recycling bins, including all classrooms, offices, hallways, and the cafeteria. Through workshops, bulletin board displays, newsletters, and morning announcements, they increased public awareness of “Recycling Right”. Class helpers monitor their own classrooms while the student-led Green Team monitors do bin checks throughout the entire school each week. Staff and students check the Sustainability Bulletin Board for updates on the school’s recycling efforts and progress. The whole school community is committed to working together to recycle, reuse, and reduce waste. [See winning entry.](#)

Staten Island Borough Winner (\$5,000), Elementary Division; Staten Island Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000)

PS 9 NAPLES STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PS 9’s Shining STARS Become Super Recyclers! PS 9’s “Shining STARS” use Safety, Teamwork, Action, and Respect to create a positive learning community. They used this theme to teach students about the importance of recycling, engage them in recycling routines, and empower them to apply their STAR behaviors when caring for the earth. Students participated in academic activities in the classroom, musical theater, art, and dance, and in daily recycling routines in the classroom and cafeteria. They all took turns being “Super Recyclers” and used their STAR behaviors to win the “Golden Garbage Can” in their classroom recycling contest. [See winning entry.](#)

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

PS 221Q THE NORTH HILLS SCHOOL

PS 221 North Hills Elementary Goes Green. This year PS 221 delved full force into a new recycling program, starting with the creation of their first Green Team. They educated students and staff members on the “do’s and don’ts” of recycling in New York City, partnered with GrowNYC’s Recycling Champions Program, implemented a consistent system for recycling in all classrooms, enhanced their recycling system in the cafeteria, and held an “Earth Day, Every Day” event for their entire school community, among other activities. [See winning entry.](#)



2015

SUPER RECYCLERS

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

PS 144 COL JEROMUS REMSEN

Teach to Change. PS 144 is committed to establishing a sustainable environment for their entire school community. Recycling bins throughout the building were all labeled with proper decals and signs in order to reduce confusion about what items go in each bin. The Green Team held weekly “Sanitation Inspections” in every room and graphed their results, designed and created informational posters that hang around the school, and posted “Green Tips” on their school website to educate staff, students, and families. Cafeteria staff and Green Team students implement the “Clean Green Challenge” to motivate students to properly sort their cafeteria waste. By promoting their successes and evaluating their failures, PS 144 continues to work towards their goal of being a Green society. [See winning entry.](#)

Queens Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,000), Elementary Division

PS 29 Q

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. [See winning entry.](#)

Queens Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,000), Intermediate Division

IS 5 WALTER CROWLEY

IS 5 Super Recyclers. This school started the process of going green in the fall, with the help of GrowNYC Recycling Champions Program. The Green Team and recycling monitors helped IS 5 transform into a recycling center by setting up waste sorting stations in the cafeteria and recycling stations throughout the building. Students became leaders and motivators, working together to make these permanent changes in their school. They also bring recycling into the community by educating their families. [See winning entry.](#)



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

STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

Stuy Goes Green. Over the last four years, the Stuyvesant High School Environmental Club and Green Team have rolled out a school-wide recycling program. Starting in the hallways, moving to the cafeteria, and finally in the classrooms, all areas of the Stuyvesant community are now recycling more than ever. Students understand the importance of clearly labeled bins for reducing confusion and contamination. They posted color-coded signs above each bin in hallway recycling stations throughout the school. [See winning entry.](#)

Queens Honorable Mention (\$1,000), High School Division

JOHN F. KENNEDY JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Extreme Green Team. This high school for students with special needs has made great strides in increasing their sustainability efforts. They held two recycling fairs to teach students, staff, and faculty the importance and correct ways to recycle, through collaborative activities. Using pictographs and sorting games, students met educational goals while they learned how to properly wash and dispose various recyclable materials. The school's Green Team is steadily working on improving overall recycling efforts and took initial steps this year by providing adequate bins, labels, and instructional posters and bulletin boards throughout the school building. [See winning entry.](#)

Bronx Honorable Mention (\$1,000), High School Division

BRONX THEATRE HIGH SCHOOL

Bronx Theatre High School Recycles. Bronx Theatre High School has taken on the challenge of greening their large campus, consisting of seven schools. They started up their environmental efforts this year with the help of committed staff and the creation of Green Teams. Students inspect classroom recycling bins and make announcements on the school's PA system to inform other students, staff, and faculty members about the status of their checkups, hoping to achieve better outcomes in future inspections. Through their partnership with GrowNYC Recycling Champions Program, the school is working to comply with recycling requirements. [See winning entry.](#)



2015

REDUCE & REUSE honors schools for implementing innovative waste reduction and reuse practices.

**Citywide Winner (\$10,000), Elementary Division;
Brooklyn Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000)**

BROOKLYN NEW SCHOOL PS 146 (BNS)

The BNS Studio: For Teachers, For Students, For REUSERS. Brooklyn New School parents, teachers, and students created a reuse center known as the Green Studio, which is utilized as a work space, specifically for projects involving reusable and natural materials. The Studio houses donated materials to support classroom work, and is equipped to host whole classes for workshops or projects. The entire school has access to the Green Studio, and the fifth grade Green Club meets there to plan and implement future sustainable projects for the school and neighborhood. [See winning entry.](#)

**Citywide Winner (\$10,000), Intermediate Division;
Manhattan Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000)**

WHEELS (WASHINGTON HEIGHTS EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING SCHOOL)

Turn Waste into a Beautiful Garden & Music. WHEELS' elementary, middle, and high school students collaborated on a variety of projects that assessed and reduced the amount of waste the school and community send to landfills by over 2,700 pounds per year. These projects involved composting food scraps, gardening, and creating musical instruments from reusable materials like bottles and cans. These efforts, spearheaded by the 7th Grade Compost Team, have been ongoing for 3 years, with support from the NYC Compost Project hosted by the Lower East Side Ecology Center, grants from WeAct for environmental justice, and the Citizens Committee for NYC, in addition to help from MillionTrees NYC and the NY Horticultural Society. [See winning entry.](#)

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

IS 125Q THOMAS J. McCANN WOODSIDE

Bottle Cap Mural. Q125 is currently under renovation; in anticipation of a new wing, the school created eight different murals composed of plastic bottle caps, as a fun and artistic way of educating the school's community on the importance of reusing material. Q125 reached out to all local stakeholders — students, parents, teachers, school staff, and local business — to help collect plastic bottle caps. Caps were sorted by color, and then they collaborated to create designs. [See winning entry.](#)



2015

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waste reduction and reuse practices.**

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

MASPETH HIGH SCHOOL

Reaching Forward to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Under the guidance of the Green Club, Maspeth HS completed 13 RRR projects this year. They undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the school, city, and country's waste retrieval systems and policies. Their gardening, collection drives, and environmental advocacy projects included: IYEYS Conference participation, student advocacy at City Hall for plastic bag fees, cafeteria waste and organics collection, recycling program advisory lesson, visual arts recycled art project, sustainability poster contest, NWF Green STEM guidebook entry, bottle and can redemption collections, recycling and reuse collection drives, community cleanups, tree giveaways, gardening projects, partner school collaboration, doc day screenings, and digital globe. [See winning entry.](#)

Queens Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,000), High School Division

JOHN F. KENNEDY JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Extreme Green Team. The Green Team at this high school for students with special needs worked together in an educative, creative, and hands-on project that helped students meet their individual educational goals. Over 900 milk and juice cartons were collected, washed, and reused to fill a cardboard boat as planters for vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The boat is displayed in the school's indoor Edible Garden. [See winning entry.](#)

Brooklyn Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,000), High School Division

BROWNSVILLE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

Sustainable Design. Brownsville Academy students took part in a 9 month-long reuse project that required collecting waste materials and repurposing them in a unique way. The challenge included redesigning the school's 800 square foot art gallery into a studio apartment using recyclable materials. The students created a plan that implemented new uses for old objects. These recyclable art pieces were then used to decorate the renovated space. 80% of the exhibit included handcrafted items made from recyclable waste. [See winning entry.](#)



2015

**TEAMUP^{TO}
CLEANUP** honors schools for effective cleanup and beautification projects, including school gardens.

Citywide Winner (\$10,000), Elementary Division

PS 197K KINGS HIGHWAY ACADEMY

PS 197 Community Watch Us Learn and Grow. Kings Highway is a Title I elementary school with a large population of English Language Learners and students with special needs. The school believed that through the creation of a school garden they could promote inquiry-based learning through hands-on experiences. The school's garden serves as an educational space to inform students about the benefits of healthy eating and food access, enhance students' math and science learning, promote physical activity, build teamwork, leadership skills and self-confidence, all while fostering the importance of community and appreciation of nature. [See winning entry.](#)

**Queens Borough Winner (\$5,000), Elementary Division;
Queens Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000)**

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL SCHOOL PS 205

Clean, Green, Composting Team. PS 205 students began a grassroots, school-based compost campaign by partnering with NYU's Wallerstein Collaborative and Queens Botanical Garden. They implemented food scrap collection in the school's cafeteria, which the students weigh and track and then use to create their own compost which is eventually used in their school garden. Additionally, students revitalized an overgrown high tunnel into a garden filled with flowers, herbs, and vegetables that welcomed Monarch butterflies. The revitalization project engaged various local stakeholders to reinforce the beautification of the neighborhood. [See winning entry.](#)

Citywide Winner (\$10,000), Intermediate Division

EVERGREEN MS FOR URBAN EXPLORATION

The Ever-Green Team of Evergreen Middle School. The school created a Green Team who constructed a garden of native pollinators, vegetables, and herbs; and registered with GrowNYC Recycling Champions to enhance the school's recycling program. Evergreen completed Earth Day and Anti-Litter Campaigns, creating posters and placing them in local bodegas to raise awareness of sustainability issues within the community. The new student-led Green Team worked with Science and ELA classes to create an interactive outdoor learning space for students to engage with their environment, learn to appreciate nature, and participate in interdisciplinary learning. [See winning entry.](#)



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

NEW VOICES SCHOOL OF ACADEMIC & CREATIVE ARTS

New Voices Beautification. This school started a small but effective beautification and greening program that has had an impact on the school and its surrounding community. Through gardening on school grounds, tree care on the block, and a newly implemented recycling program, New Voices is “greening up” and building student engagement in creating a healthier environment. The school secured outstanding outside support, including: “Love Your Block” grant from the Citizens Committee for NYC, MillionTrees NY, compost and soil from Parks Dept, GrowToLearn grant from GrowNYC, Greening Forward Earth Savers Club Grant, Partnership for Parks Capacity Fund Grant, NYC DOE Service in Schools grant, Brooklyn Botanic Garden Brooklyn Urban Gardener Program, local elected officials, and private donations of services and goods from local businesses and the community. [See winning entry.](#)

Brooklyn Borough Honorable Mention (\$1,000), Intermediate Division

BROOKLYN URBAN GARDEN SCHOOL (BUGS)

Gardening Stewardship and Beautification Project. The Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School is committed to school-wide and community learning through urban gardening and interdisciplinary sustainability. This spring, students in the gardening program and the sixth and seventh grade advisories worked on projects to expand the school’s gardens and enrich their learning of the local environment. Students set up a garden composting system, created a storm water diversion structure in the garden, built shelters for birds and small mammals in the front yard, maintained the vermiculture (worm bin) compost, and taught the neighboring pre-k basic gardening lessons. [See winning entry.](#)



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**Citywide Winner (\$10,000), High School Division;
NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT “ROSE AWARD”**

ROY CAMPANELLA OTC P721K

Wheel Chair Accessible Gardening. Roy Campanella High School for special needs students renovated an unused outdoor space into a wheel chair accessible garden that can be utilized as an outdoor learning environment for all students. Previously, this space was an overgrown area located on the school’s property and was not wheelchair accessible, as an old wooden fence blocked the wheel chair ramp. The school’s goal was to build two double raised garden beds for vegetables and another to serve as a sensory environment, expand the garden, create an outdoor classroom with seating, and build a wheel chair accessible pathway into the garden. Collaborations include: Grow to Learn Citywide School Gardens Initiative (GrowNYC), Green Thumb (Parks Department), Butterfly Project NYC, and Stillwell Materials Corp. [See winning entry.](#)

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

ACADEMY FOR CAREER AND LIVING SKILLS

Health Choice Farmers Market. This school for special needs students built raised bed organic flower, herb, fruit, and produce gardens from undeveloped tracts of land surrounding the school. The produce they grow is sold at the school’s Farmers Market. The garden provides an outdoor classroom where students are able to work on their physical, daily living, and academic goals, as well as vocational training, all aligned to the common core standards. Teachers developed lesson plans to teach hands-on Earth Science, money management, retail skills, communication skills, and Botany by including pollinator plants which attract beneficial insects. The garden was built with the help of volunteers and funding that was provided by GrowNYC’s Grow to Learn Citywide School Garden Initiative, and the Nature Conservancy. [See winning entry.](#)