



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

2014 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 29 John M. Harrigan
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Borough Runner-Up	\$2,500	PS 32 Samuel Mills Sprole
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Honorable Mention	\$1,250	PS 316 Elijah G Stroud
	Elementary	Manhattan	Borough Winner	\$5,000	PS 6 Lillie D Blake
	High School	Bronx	Notable Student Effort	(n/a)	Cardinal Spellman High School
	High School	Manhattan	Notable Student Effort	(n/a)	Stuyvesant High School

	Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide & Borough Winner	\$10,000	PS 185 Walter Kassenbrock
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Borough Runner-Up	\$2,500	Brooklyn Arbor
	Elementary	Queens	Borough Winner; Queens Golden Shovel	\$6,000	PS 209Q Clearview Gardens
	Intermediate	Brooklyn	Citywide & Borough Winner Brooklyn Golden Shovel	\$11,000	Brooklyn Urban Garden School (BUGS)

	Division	Borough	Award	Prize	School
	Elementary	Brooklyn	Citywide & Borough Winner	\$10,000	PS 32 Samuel Mills Sprole
	Elementary	Bronx	Borough Winner; NYRP Rose Award	\$5,000	PS 54 Fordham Bedford Academy
	High School	Bronx	Citywide & Borough Winner; Bronx Golden Shovel	\$11,000	DeWitt Clinton High School
	High School	Queens	Borough Winner	\$5,000	Maspeth High School
	High School	Staten Island	Notable Student Effort	(n/a)	St Joseph Hill Academy

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-2014WINNERS



2014

SUPER RECYCLERS

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

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

P.S. 029 JOHN M. HARRIGAN

Caring For Our Earth Is a Way of Life at PS 29. This year, the PS 29 Green Team identified problems with their recycling systems, devised solutions, and put them into practice. Initiatives included making sure there are bins for trash and paper recycling in each classroom, and blue bins for metal, glass, and plastics centrally located in each hallway; waste sorting stations (on wheels!) for recyclables, trash, and organics in the cafeteria; and creating color-coded areas on the sidewalk for setout. Every class assigned two student leaders who were trained to inspect classroom bins and teach fellow students about recycling; each class wrote and signed their own recycling agreement. The Green Team met weekly and completed various projects. Teachers incorporated recycling into lesson plans, especially science and literacy. Student activities included recycling at their block party, and clean-up and composting at Gowanus Canal. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

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

PS 32 SAMUEL MILLS SPROLE

Growing a Recycling Program at PS 32. In the Fall of 2013, PS 32 launched a plan to ramp up its recycling and composting efforts. Parents participated in an online crowd funding webinar and created a campaign that attracted online private contributions of nearly \$3,000 and in-kind donations to acquire new recycling containers. So far, the school has placed new bins in its classrooms, offices, hallways, auditorium, playground, and public spaces. In January, students participated in a lively all-school assembly on recycling by The Grand Falloons magicians to announce the new containers. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

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

PS 316 ELIJAH G STROUD

Decorate to Save Earth. Noticing that students were confused about recycling separation, PS 316's Green Team challenged teachers to reduce waste by raising awareness of proper sorting. PS 316 increased recycling rates throughout the school by redecorating recycling bins, and tracking progress in each classroom on charts. During their annual Earth Day celebration, awards were given to classes that had created exceptional recycling bins. The Green Team Leadership Club checked on assigned teachers, and worked in the lunchroom to train students how to sort their waste, including organics. The Technology Club created a video explaining how to recycle, and also made recycling posters for the school hallways. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



2014

SUPER RECYCLERS

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

Manhattan Borough Winner, Elementary Division

PS 6 LILLIE D BLAKE

PS6 Green Star Awards. In just a few months, PS 6 transformed their entire recycling program by installing the same three-bin system in their common areas, offices, classrooms, and kitchen. Keeping waste sorting areas consistent throughout the entire school and adding labels to all bins helped students to properly sort their trash and recyclables. After a kick-off recycling assembly in the winter, PS 6 instituted their Green Star Award program, dreamed up at a Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF) workshop, to reward classrooms that are doing it right. The school's newly established Green Team created surveys for teachers to track progress, created a recycling video, and ran a recycling update staff meeting. The Ekokids lunch club collects liquids and sometimes food waste in the cafeteria for on-site composting.

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

Bronx Notable Student Effort, High School Division

CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

United We Recycle! This year, Cardinal Spellman High School students decided to undertake a massive recycling project that involved the entire school community. The 4G Club (Go Green Gardening Group) collected and weighed classroom paper recycling, and then entered the data into a spreadsheet to visualize their impact on the environment. The data is displayed on a banner at the entrance of the school, surrounded by cardboard cutouts of the number of trees they saved by recycling paper. They also constructed a greenhouse from plastic bottles, and a solar panel from aluminum cans. Teachers developed interdisciplinary projects in science, art, and math to involve students in designing and constructing their own recycled objects. Cardinal Spellman High School's conscientious efforts have helped students not only recycle, but also reduce their non-sustainable trash, with the overarching goal of reducing air, soil, and water pollution.

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

Manhattan Notable Student Effort, High School Division

STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

Stuy Goes Green. Stuyvesant High School's second year of "Greening Stuy" has made recycling more simple and convenient by expanding hallway recycling to all 10 floors of the building, adding organics collection to their cafeteria, and assigning a schedule for students to collect hallway recycling and record the weights of collected materials. The students in the Environmental Club planned and implemented the school's updated recycling program; volunteering their time to assist with cafeteria disposal, placing signs around the school, checking bins for proper disposal, and posting recycling information on their website. These efforts have successfully increased student involvement and awareness. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



2014

**REDUCE
& REUSE**

honors schools with the most innovative waste prevention practices.

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

PS 185 WALTER KASSENBRÖCK

PS 185 Bottle Cap Mural Project. Considering the astounding statistic that only 1 in 10 plastic bottle caps are recycled, PS 185's Go Green Team planned and implemented this school-wide art project. Every student in the school worked together to collect over 15,000 bottle caps, and to design and create the murals. Students learned the importance of community participation by reaching out to their Bay Ridge neighbors, Councilman, Senator, and local restaurants to collect bottle caps. The murals, unveiled during their Earth Day Celebration (along with their Indigenous Garden, also constructed in honor of Earth Day), now grace the school's lobby, demonstrating their commitment to the protection of the planet. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

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

BROOKLYN ARBOR K414

Materials Depot: Give Trash Another Chance! Brooklyn Arbor's parent committee, "Materials for Makers," turned a closet into a "Materials Depot" for reusable items brought in by students, on a collection schedule. These materials are used by teachers, families, and students for projects, experiments, and crafts, with an overall lesson about reusing and giving new life to otherwise discarded items. Materials are reused for classroom projects, curriculum connections, Family Fridays, school-wide celebrations, and performances. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

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

PS 209Q CLEARVIEW GARDENS

Clear View of Recycling. PS 209Q decided to target cafeteria waste this year by composting to reduce food waste (and to use for soil in their garden); taking part in "Trayless Tuesdays" to reduce Styrofoam waste; and creating a school-wide initiative to promote reusable water bottles. Milk cartons were collected and used by teachers as paint pots and for seedlings. Students collected materials to reuse in art projects, including a mural completed by the school's second and fifth grade students, "Community Maps: Mosaics of PS 209 Queens," that went on public display at a Materials for the Arts (MFTA) exhibition. The students also used recycled and discarded fabric to make cage comforters for dogs and cats in NYC shelters; work with Queens Botanical Garden to grow their own vegetables for consumption; and used recycled lumber from GreenThumb to build raised garden beds. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



2014

**REDUCE
& REUSE**

honors schools with the most innovative waste prevention practices.

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

BROOKLYN URBAN GARDEN SCHOOL (BUGS)

Service Learning: Reducing Materials Use & Solid Waste. Through a waste reduction service learning project, students support sustainability in their community and at home. Students formed several committees dedicated to this project: the Social Media Committee posted tips on how to reduce waste; the Composting/Recycling Committee created a 4-category sorting system for the cafeteria, including food waste; the Litterless Committee focused on increasing paper recycling; and the Planter Building Committee reused materials to create planters for raising seedlings in the garden. Student art, literacy, and science projects included designing and creating murals for their hallways that sent a message about caring for their commons; creating sculptures from recycled materials; writing persuasive letters to their families about the importance of recycling, composting, and energy conservation; and creating a comic book about energy conservation. By pairing their clearly labeled separation system with the service learning project, BUGS calculated they've gone from diverting an average of 0 percent of their waste from landfills, to 84.27 percent.

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



2014

**TEAMUP^{TO}
CLEANUP**

**honors schools with the most innovative cleanup
and beautification projects.**

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

PS 32 SAMUEL MILLS SPROLE

PS 32 Community Garden. In 2011, PS 32 transformed a concrete urban schoolyard a block and a half from the Gowanus Canal (which USEPA designated as a Superfund cleanup site in 2010), into a learning garden. The school's diverse student population work together in the garden and learn about environmental science and stewardship, as well as nutrition and healthy eating, art, writing, math, social studies, history, with curriculum linked to the garden across grades. The space includes an edibles garden, sensory bed, native species garden, flower beds, and a Three Sisters garden with indigenous crops, has multiple raised beds, planters, rainwater harvesting, a 3-barrel composting system, and a greenhouse. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

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

PS 54 FORDHAM BEDFORD ACADEMY

Collaborative Composting. Through hands-on projects and literacy, PS 54's library media center fosters environmental education. Students built a raised-bed garden and learned to compost their cafeteria food waste on-site. Students read about the 3Rs, watched videos on composting, assisted with the school garden and composting, and ate fresh produce from their garden at their Garden to Café event. Special education learners were particularly responsive and made it a habit to compost food waste; everyone loved to turn the compost crank. Students learn service, stewardship, and citizenship through the school's environmental efforts and cross curricular connections in literacy, science, and health and wellness. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Citywide & Bronx Borough Winner (\$10,000) and Bronx Golden Shovel Award (\$1,000), High School Division

DEWITT CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL 440

Growing the Clinton Garden. The Clinton Garden is at the heart of the school's sustainability efforts. Started in 2012, the Clinton Garden has doubled in productivity every year. Presently they grow food on 14 raised beds, providing experiential, hands-on learning for their students. They also compost in four different ways: they have built a three-bin system, with a tumbler, they use a plastic bin to cure the compost, and they have two indoor worm bins. English classes use the garden in their curriculum requirements; for example, the 12th grade visits the garden as a model of a small-scale eco-design project, and also uses it for their studies of Shakespeare. The garden's success rests upon deep student involvement, and the support of numerous partners and community organizations. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)



2014

**TEAMUP^{TO}
CLEANUP**

**honors schools with the most innovative cleanup
and beautification projects.**

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

MASPETH HIGH SCHOOL

Maspeth Green Club Cleans Queens and Beyond. Following two successful Golden Apple wins, the Maspeth Green Club completed another 14 projects this year. Gardening, neighborhood cleanups, and environmental advocacy projects included: ACE leadership training and Powershift conference; Onderdonk grounds cleanup; windowfarm hydroponic gardening; neighborhood cleanups; Million Trees giveaway campaign; daffodil planting; S.T.O.P. bags conference; sustainability calendar art contest; anti-litter public service announcement; Showtime documentary filming; recycling and composting; campus gardening and habitat construction; Eco-Schools USA audit completion and Green Flag designation; Scientist in Residence grant research; and science fair. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)

Staten Island Borough Notable Student Effort, High School Division

ST. JOSEPH HILL ACADEMY

Trashbusters A-Z. The Trashbuster Team at St. Joseph Hill Academy decided to complete one project for each letter of the alphabet, dedicated to the cleaning and beautifying of Staten Island. They devoted their time and energy to removing trash from Staten Island neighborhoods, beaches, parks, bus stops, and other locations. They worked to improve the environments where their families live and play by planting bulbs, flowers, and trees, as in the Million Trees Project. They also held their own Green Fashion show with designs made from recycled materials. [Click here for pages from the winning entry.](#)