



## Five New York Schools Receive Recycling Grants

ALBANY – Five New York state schools were recipients of a “Green Schools Grant” from the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR<sup>3</sup>), the professional recyclers’ association for New York State. The grants, which are awarded in two rounds a year, will enhance recycling efforts in schools.

Schools receiving awards include Roy Campanella Occupational Training Center of Brooklyn; East Moriches School of East Moriches; Kingsford Park of Oswego; P.S. 116 Mary Lindley Murray of New York; and Seneca Middle School of Holbrook. The grants, in amounts of up to \$500, will be used to expand or enhance recycling, waste reduction or composting efforts with such school-wide projects as purchasing collection bins and totes for classrooms or cafeterias, and one program that will place vermicomposting (worm composting) bins in eight elementary classrooms.

“This round of grants went to five schools, for a total of \$2,307,” noted Theresa Evans, chair of the NYSAR<sup>3</sup> Green Schools grant program. “This was a nice geographic representation from across the state.” Projects will be used for:

**Roy Campanella Occupational Training Center** - The \$500 grant will expand the school’s recycling collection efforts through the purchase of a large Rubbermaid tilt hand truck for storage and getting materials to the curb; a large, wheeled garbage can for hallway recycling pick up; and assorted other recycling equipment.

**East Moriches School** - The Middle School Environmental Club, where students in grades 5-8 created plastic water bottle receptacles for each classroom. Made from refurbished 5-gallon pickle buckets donated by a local restaurant and painted blue (with donated paint), this low cost solution is an effective collection system. Once or twice a month students collect and bag up the bottles.

**Kingsford Park** - The award will be used to set up vermicomposting (worm composting) stations in eight select classrooms, which will each receive components to set up a simple vermicomposting system, including large covered bins, thermometers, potting soil, copies of the book “Worms Eat My Garbage,” and several pounds each of red wiggler worms.

P.S. 116 Mary Lindley Murray – will purchase recycling bins for classroom use to collect paper, as well as large bins for hallways, for larger items such as large pieces of cardboard. They will also begin collecting used writing and art implements, such as crayons, to be recycled.

**Seneca Middle School** - will expand the middle schools recycling efforts (which is now primarily paper recycling) to include food waste composting. The school was given \$382 to purchase four large recycle/compost bins for use in the cafeteria.

NYSAR<sup>3</sup> established a grant program for public and private schools Grades K-12 in 2005 for the purpose of providing seed, or start-up money for recycling/waste reduction/composting programs in public and private schools. Since that time, almost 100 NYS schools have benefitted financially from the program, to say nothing of the environmental benefits achieved by instituting recycling/waste reduction programs in schools.

*NYSAR<sup>3</sup>, the premiere recycling organization in New York State, provides members with expertise and education on waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues and practices to improve the environment. The group advocates for policies and programs that support environmental sustainability in the Empire State and provides access to a network of individuals and organizations that share ideas about starting and improving reduction, reuse, and recycling programs, as well as information on education and funding. More details are available on their website: [www.NYSAR3.org](http://www.NYSAR3.org).*