

Green Team/PTO Partnership Guide

It is recommended that at the start of the school year, a Green Team representative attend one of the initial PTO meetings to introduce themselves. You may want to reach out to the PTO and ask to be put on the agenda. If you have enough people on your Green Team, it is helpful if members rotate and try to attend as many of the PTO meetings as possible. Having green team members "in the room where it happens" (ie at the table/meeting when things are decided) makes a big difference. A SignUpGenius is a good way to offer Green Team members options as to which meetings they can attend and ensure that they get a reminder before the meeting.

A suggested list of what you may want to say/do at that meeting is as follows:

- ❑ Introduce yourself as the school's Green Team contact and provide your contact information.
- ❑ Convey the Wellesley Green School's mission: **Wellesley Green Schools is a collaborative group of students, parents and staff working together to reduce schools' ecological footprint and inspire students to be ecologically-minded citizens.**
- ❑ Explain the Town of Wellesley's goal of net zero by 2050 and how the school community including parents and students have the opportunity to help meet that goal! [List of things you can do here.](#)
- ❑ Make PTO aware of the national recognition that WPS has received due to sustainability efforts. For example, in 2019, the U.S. Department of Education selected Wellesley as a recipient of a Green Ribbons School Award. The District was one of only 14 in the country to win this award. The Green Ribbons School Award honors schools, districts and postsecondary institutions across the county that serve as examples of reducing environmental impacts and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and delivering effective environmental and sustainability education.
- ❑ List ways you can help the PTO
 - ❑ For events (parties/luncheons/banquets/school fairs) provide a copy of

☐ [SMART Event Guide](#)

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- Water dispensers
- Banquet in a Box (i.e. reusable tablecloths, etc)
- MWRA water truck
- Party decorations from Fiske cage
- BYOB (bottle/beverage)
- Recyclemobile from RDF
- Other ways to help:
 - Garden support (if your school has one)
 - Contact for PTO to other schools through Wellesley Green Schools
- Talk about food waste/recovery efforts at your school (if appropriate)
- Talk about gas leaks in front of your school (if appropriate)- cost and health concerns
- Obtain PTO Social Chair contact information/discuss big events and ways to reduce waste/costs.
- Obtain room parent contact information. Sometimes the room parent coordinator is one of the PTO members. Room parents provide a direct contact into the classrooms.
- Secure a Green Team budget.
- Make PTO aware of town resources (NRC, RDF, etc) available for "free" presentations.

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