



Boston Latin School

The Oldest School, The Newest Thinking: Educating for Sustainability

78 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston MA 02115

BLS YOUTHCAN OVERVIEW

Boston Latin School is the oldest public school in the USA (1635), and the largest in our district. Students in our youth-led environmental club, BLS YouthCAN (BLSYC) have become leaders recognized in the region for extensive green schools outreach, hosting an **Annual Sustainability Summit at MIT** that serves hundreds of students and educators each year for the past 11 years; running an **Elementary Mentoring Program**; sponsoring **Teacher Institutes on Sustainability**; providing a **Teen Energy Program**; and founding **YouthCAN**, a youth environmental coalition now with 30+ member groups. Financing BLSYC's efforts has remained the responsibility of BLSYC students, who've secured funds through grants, contests, and fundraisers, extending the reach of hard won dollars by cultivating city partners for several initiatives including a \$75K lighting retrofit. We don't have a budget or receive any ongoing funding. Nevertheless, over the past several years YouthCAN students have raised over \$400K through winning contests and student-grant writing putting 300K of that amount directly back into the community in the programs we are providing.

For example, for three years BLS YouthCAN paid our energy learning forward by training students from other schools in our Youth Green Jobs Energy Audit Training Program. We organized and hosted a community energy open house at Boston Latin School where teen participants in the program presented their energy audit findings. We were able to offer teen auditors some energy saving implementation funds thanks to securing \$25,000.00 in an Energy to Educate E2 grant from Constellation Energy. We also updated our own energy action plan at Boston Latin School, having already reduced energy by over 30%. We conducted a rooftop wind study; hosted the President of Smart Power; held a solar luncheon at BLS and got students to sign a petition about reducing carbon emissions. We also launched a carpooling initiative called Carbon Carpoolooza; developed an online interactive product assessment tool called the Real Cost Kiosk; and partnered with students at a neighboring school to develop a proposal for a two-school composting pilot that will save energy and keep food waste from landfills.

We brought a building dashboard to our school, as well as a vertical garden in our dining hall, and a salad bar. We wrote grants for several water bottle filling stations, built 3 raised beds, and won our Freight Farm. This year we are adding hand dryers in our bathrooms and are starting a CSA with student grown produce from the Freight Farm. We are also pursuing a high impact green roof project that BLS YouthCAN has been working on for several years. The project will provide a new, net zero energy wing of the building powered completely by solar panels and help students and educators to think in terms of the world's interconnected systems and be better educated for sustainability. The project was featured on the Today Show: http://www.blsyouthcan.org/BLS_Youth_C.A.N./Today_Show_Clip.html

Boston Latin School is a regional model for how schools can become greener. We earned Boston Magazine's "best green school" in 2010. We received an award from the local chapter of International Facilities Management Association. We were the first public school in the nation to receive the Eco-Schools USA Green Flag award. We've won the President's Environmental Youth Award, and an EPA Merit Award. We were one of 4 schools in the America's shortlisted for the Zayed Global High School Prize for 100K, and we won a 75K Global Green School Makeover in 2013. We won the federal government's Green Ribbon School award for our school in 2014. We're a youth-led grassroots organization at the forefront of the green schools movement, leading the way in community partnerships, youth leadership, and what education for sustainability and service learning should really look like.



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 Youth Climate Action Network
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