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# Glen Rock Green Team Interns

High School Residents of Glen Rock

Fall 2019

8 Weekly Meetings on Environmental Campaigns in Glen Rock





The Glen Rock Green Team Intern program is an innovative program for bringing together students interested in environmental sustainability to discuss issues of concern, to identify ways to raise awareness of these issues in the town, and to advocate for sustainable action. It incorporates the diverse skills and interests of the students as they design and enact their own concrete projects, thus building confidence in themselves as well as making impactful contributions to the well-being of our community.

The GR Green Team Intern program was organized and supervised by members of GR Environmental Commission and GR Green Team: Laura Occhipinti, Ann Marie Brennan and Melanie Mike-Mayer. This group advertised for interns among Glen Rock residents, arranged for their meetings in the GR Environmental Center, helped students with questions, references, ideas, strategies, and accompanied them on in-person visits. Melanie set up a Google folder with a document for each meeting tracking attendance, projects, and tasks for each team:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WuCgCTkADymU5VXQ3FaiNcmSbwLP9tyi

In the Fall 2019, sixteen Interns met weekly for 8 evenings at the GR Environmental Center, Sept 26 Nov 8, 2019. The students identified several issues of concern: Plastic pollution, Car pollution, Litter, Pollution related to Home Lawns such as pesticides and gas-powered mowers, Styrofoam Pollution, Water usage, etc. Students organized themselves into teams by interest and skill: Research, Communications, Design, Writing, and Video. They utilized local social media, email, and even in-person visits to communicate with residents, schools, and local business owners to discuss issues. At the last session, each team contributed to a <u>PowerPoint</u> summarizing their work, learnings, and recommendations for future interns.

Glen Rock Environmental Commission and Green Team advertised for Green Team Interns on Facebook.



Glen Rock Green Team September 16, 2019 - 3

This is our LAST reminder. Internship applications are due 9.19.19. http://www.greenupglenrock.com/internsfall.html

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The students agreed to work on four main topics: 1) GR Bag Ordinance, 2) Pesticides/Water Conservation, 3) Leave the Leaves campaign, and 4) Anti-idling campaign.

The Five Teams (Research, Communications, Writing, Design, Video) worked on the same topics, but with a different approach according to their team skills:

- The research team identified links with information related to each topic. Info included general information, town ordinances, and local business practices and products. They shared this information on our group Google drive for the other teams to see and update.
- The writing team wrote letters to the editor to inform the public on topics such as the harmful impacts of pesticides and water management, plus press releases on town resolutions and GR campaigns. For example: <u>Green Reminder: Only Those Certified Can Apply Fertilizers | TAPinto</u>
- The communications team reached out to residents to serve as judges for poster contest, visited local business to discuss and share information on the town bag ordinance, emailed local businesses to find out about their pesticide-free products.
- The design and video teams created flyers and videos to advertise campaigns.

The Writing Team wrote article for local online newspaper.

Green Reminder: Only Those Certified Can Apply Fertilizers | TAPinto ıs/fair-lawn-slash-glen-rock/sections/green/articles/greei



Green Reminder: Only Those Certified Can Apply Fertilizers



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Credits: TAPinto, net File Photo



GLEN ROCK, NJ - In 2012, a law was passed that required homeowners/landscapers to be certified to use fertilizers on their lawns. As concerned citizens celebrating the Year of Air and Water, the Glen Rock Green Team Interns are reminding everyone (homeowners, landscapers, property management companies, groundskeepers, etc.) to be certified when applying fertilizers to their property. A three-phase plan was put in place by the state to reduce the impact of fertilizers in the waterways and ecosystems of New Jersey. It includes needing to be certified in order to apply fertilizer to any lawn in New Jersey.

Following this law is important because fertilizers can be very harmful to the environment of our community. Most fertilizers are made up of chemicals that are harmful when overused, such as nitrogen and phosphorus. So, when too many people contribute an overabundance of fertilizer, it greatly impacts our communities. Fertilizers wash into our waterways and can cause extensive algae and weed growth. This, in turn, leads to oxygen-depleted waters and reduces the amount of sunlight needed for healthy aquatic life. This leads to an overall unhealthy ecosystem in our town.

This law currently is enforced by any municipality, county, local soil conservation district, and local health

The Design team created posters on topics to advertise campaigns or to educate residents on topic

#### Glen Rock Green Team October 16, 2019 - O

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Calling all the artists! Create your own sign against idling cars and submit it to the Fall 2019 Glen Rock Green Team contest. Idling is a dangerous activity that contributes to global warming, which poses a threat against our environment. Join other artists in making compelling posters in order to combat climate change and serve our community. The winning artist will have their work shared with businesses and government facilities that want to use your art to make a difference. The deadline is November 7, 2019. Send your submissions via email to GRGreenTeamPosterContest@gmail.com as a JPEG, Gif, or.PNG. All are welcome!

(Written by Casey Bedwell-Coll, intern at the Glen Rock Green Team)

#### CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

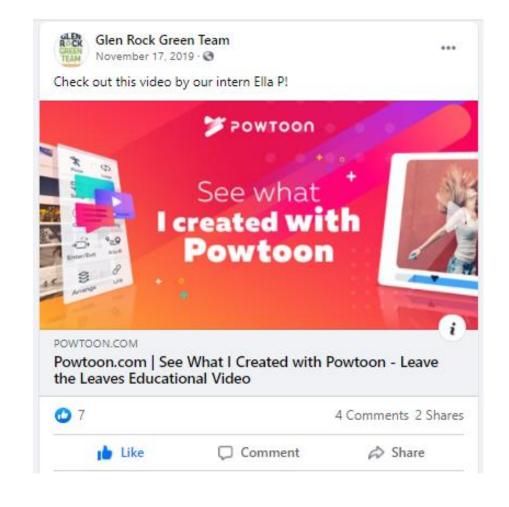


## THIS IS A PESTICIDE-FREE PROPERTY! AND YOURS CAN BE TOO!

JUST ASK YOUR LANDSCAPER ABOUT USING ORGANIC OR NATURAL ALTERNATIVES The Video Team created videos to share with Glen Rock residents to raise their awareness and to encourage sustainable action, such as on Facebook.

#### Leave the Leaves Video:

https://www.powtoon.com/onlinepresentation/d1xFJDqUNqZ/?utm\_mediu m=SocialShare&utm\_campaign=facebook %2Bshare%2Bby%2Bnon%2Bowner&utm source=player-page-socialshare&utm\_content=d1xFJDqUNqZ&utm po=26559370&playOnLoad=1&mode=mo



### Evaluation and Summary of Green Team Interns

PowerPoint Evaluation by each of the Teams of the GR Green Team Interns

• <u>Green Team Interns powerpoint</u> <u>Fall 2019.pdf</u>

# 2019 Fall Summary

A final presentation on projects the Glen Rock Green Team Interns worked on.

### GR Green Team Interns Receive Recognition at GR Council Meeting

Read More at this Newspaper link:

https://www.tapinto.net/tow ns/fair-lawn-slash-glenrock/sections/green/articles/ glen-rock-green-teamrecognized-as-49-changemakers?fbclid=IwAR1zAzGM Odxpl4\_TjC4ek\_IwOSVS3ELEST XymSmHxgDzQzgNJMCZTinP Nw

