

# Students Celebrating Earth Week

by Wendy Fachon

The Mount Hope High School Environmental Club, in Bristol, has big plans for celebrating Earth Week April 20 to 24. The club's new co-advisors, Jennifer Alexander and Kristen Duprey, have been teaching science at the high school for two and a half and three years respectively. The club meets before school so students can pursue other activities after school. Co-presidents from the junior and senior classes lead a membership of 20 dedicated students.



Each member lends different skills and passions to help achieve the team's overall goal of promoting sustainable practices within the school community and beyond. Some students are eager to step into organizational roles, while others enjoy direct hands-on projects. Many students are enrolled in AP Environmental Science. Some aspire to environmental law while others aspire to environmental science, journalism or teaching.

To honor the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, the club will host events and activities outdoors in the courtyard. In early March, the club began cleaning out the courtyard greenhouse and figuring out how to put it back into use. The students are organizing a plant and seedling sale, to take place during the school lunch period, and will donate some of the proceeds to an environmental

nonprofit while keeping some to fund future club events. Additionally, they will hold a reusable metal drinking straw sale.

Club members will also set up information stations and provide snacks and beverages to draw others in and inspire involvement. This effort will help spread the word about recent environmental actions around the state and the nation. It will provide a forum for club members to share their knowledge and educate classmates and teachers about the problems and the actionable steps everyone can take to help make a positive difference for the environment.

One example will be a table explaining H7471, the Rhode Island resolution for environmental education, a bill newly introduced at the State House. The bill resolution requests that the Rhode Island Department of Education develop a set of

key environmental and climate principles and concepts to be infused in all subjects for K-12 public school students. Club members will share the details, the reasoning and legislative status of the bill and instruct their peers on how to help advocate in support of the measure.

The Environmental Club is planning to use a variety of media channels to share Earth Day and environmental news and facts, including daily announce-

ments and emails to students, as well as public service announcements through the school's Husky News Network (HNN) that is produced by a video broadcasting class and shown daily to the school community.

Of course, the Environmental Club will be promoting itself throughout all these activities as they are looking to grow their membership. They also seek to establish more connections and support from the surrounding community of Bristol and Warren.

For more information, contact Jennifer Alexander at [Jennifer.Alexander@bwrnsd.org](mailto:Jennifer.Alexander@bwrnsd.org).

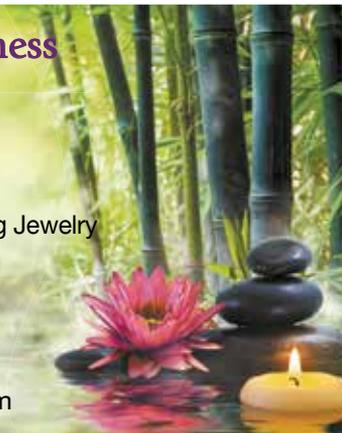
Wendy Fachon is a regular contributor to *Sustainable Living News* and host of the *Story Walking Radio Hour on the Dream Visions 7 Radio Network*. Visit [dreamvisions7radio.com](http://dreamvisions7radio.com) and search out her podcasts on sustainable living.

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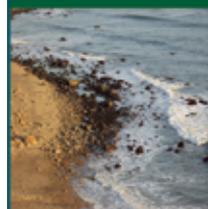
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