



INVITATION

**Readington Board of Education
Green Committee Meeting
Tuesday April 4, 2017 – 3 PM
BOE Offices, Holland Brook School**

SOLAR INSTALLATION PLANTINGS

The Green Committee of the Readington Township Board of Education is soliciting your input in the design, installation, and maintenance of plantings associated with solar power systems being installed this summer, as well as the ongoing educational opportunities they will provide.

You are cordially invited to the April 4 meeting of the BOE's Green Committee to discuss these plantings. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to get involved, please email us (address below).

There are two different projects with distinctly different goals: at the Readington Middle School we will be shielding a ground-mounted array that faces Readington Road for purely aesthetic reasons, and at Holland Brook School we will be planting a ¼ acre wildlife habitat (replacing scrub forest removed in the installation) to meet the standards of the National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitat Program. A deer fence will protect the habitat planting.

There are a number of reasons that we are reaching out to the community in this effort:

- We have long sought opportunities for meaningful outreach and cooperation with the community, beyond just our students and their parents;
- The work at the Middle School directly impacts on the look and feel of our community, members of which have fought for decades to preserve and enhance this wonderful attribute;
- There is a huge knowledge base in the community which can directly assist in the design, and implementation of these projects;
- There are growers and vendors within the community who may choose to assist us with their expertise and/or planting material recommendations;
- There are community members, and possibly organizations (e.g., Boy/Girl Scouts), or landscaping firms who may choose to physically assist in the installation and/or maintenance of the projects; and,
- There are people with expertise who may choose to provide guest lectures/classes in the outdoor classroom we are building.

The Readington School District's environmental initiatives have resulted in numerous state and federal awards. The installation of solar power systems will; reduce electricity expenses; provide teaching opportunities in the areas of science, technology, math and ethics; and, help the district further reduce its carbon footprint.

The plantings associated with the solar installation will extend and complement these initiatives, and serve as a wonderful collaborative project for the Readington School District and the greater Readington community as a whole. Please join us.

**Eric Zwerling, Chair
Green Committee**

Please RSVP to:
plewandowski@readington.k12.nj.us