



# YEAR END Green Cleaning

## Year End Classroom Cleanout Ideas for Teachers and Green Teams

1. **Organize a Swap event:** swaps are great opportunities for teachers to reduce the amount of waste by exchanging supplies with one another. The Green Team can help organize or promote this event. They can measure how much waste is diverted by tallying what was exchanged and give prizes to the teacher who diverts the most waste.



PS 516, Brooklyn, Year End Classroom Supplies Swap

2. **Host an “End-of-Year Cleaning Champion” contest:** students rate the teachers on how well they sorted their end of year waste and give the winner a prize or certificate of recognition. The same rubric for classroom monitoring could be used for a contest like this.

3. **Video:** create an end of year cleaning video to remind teachers and parents to reuse remaining supplies and make their supplies list greener for next year.

4. **Presentations:** the Green Team can visit each class or attend the beginning of a faculty PD to give a brief presentation offering important tips on how to sort the items coming out of teachers’ classroom.

5. **Donate:** students organize to help teachers donate lightly used supplies to organizations like Materials for the Arts or [donateNYC](http://donateNYC.com). Designate a day for teachers to place materials for donation in a box outside their classroom door for the Green Team to collect.

6. **Announcements:** students can make PA announcements that encourage their peers to salvage as many items as possible to be used next year.

*“Good morning, My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of the the PS\_\_\_ Green Team. We are determined to make our school a more sustainable place and we want to remind you to reuse as many school supplies as you can next year.”*

7. **Encourage Parents:** ask the PTA to share the message with parents to save supplies and REUSE them next year. Lightly used notebooks can have pages removed and a new label added to identify the grade and subject. Pencils, pens, markers and crayons can all be reused.