



**GreenCAP**

green decade  
COALITION / NEWTON  
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*1990 - 2000 ... a decade  
to make a difference!*

**GreenCAP** is the Green Decade Coalition's Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides. Our mission is to protect our health and the environment by promoting ecological approaches to landscaping and pest control.

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As set forth in Chapter 211 of the Massachusetts General Laws, one of the missions of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute is to provide training and assistance on toxics use reduction to a variety of publics within Massachusetts. The TUR Act of 1989 provided the framework for TURI's Community Education Program and established the purpose of the Toxics Use Reduction Networking Grants program for projects that raise awareness at the local level, particularly those involved, or otherwise interested in promoting environmental activities at the community level.

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## GREEN DECADE COALITION/NEWTON WINS GRANT TO PROMOTE ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES.

The Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute (UMass/Lowell) has awarded a \$7,000 grant to the Green Decade Coalition/Newton and its Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides, GreenCAP. The grant will fund an education campaign designed to reduce the use of pesticides in Newton. The theme of the campaign is "Toxics Use Reduction begins at home, in the garden, on the lawn..."

GreenCAP will work in collaboration with its partners, the Newton Health Department, Newton Parks and Recreation Department, Newton's Conservation Commission and the Newton Conservators, to raise community awareness that pesticides are toxic chemicals and to promote pollution prevention policies such as integrated pest management (IPM). Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safe, cost-effective approach to weed, insect, and rodent control that is based on prevention strategies rather than pesticides. The use of IPM requires the application of knowledge about the ecology of the environment rather than the use of toxic chemicals to control pests. IPM had its beginnings, and continues to be used, in agriculture as a cost control strategy.

GreenCAP will develop and distribute educational materials that will teach Toxics Use Reduction goals and concepts and apply them to pesticide reduction efforts. Toxics Use Reduction concepts include involving communities in documenting the use of toxic chemicals, public reporting and analysis, understanding regulations and enforcement, and coordinated planning to reduce use of toxics. With the help of volunteers and student interns, GreenCAP will continue to conduct its Community Pesticide Use Survey and promote recognition of areas that are pesticide-free.

Just as the Green Decade Coalition's Ecoteams have demonstrated how the aggregate impact of changes in individual households can make a significant contribution to achieving community and global environmental goals, GreenCAP will emphasize that reducing pesticide use on public and private properties will significantly reduce our exposure to pesticides in our homes, workplaces, landscapes, and in our water and food.

Over the next six months, GreenCAP will develop a community resource center of information about the hazards of pesticides and alternative approaches to pest control. The Green Decade Coalition will plan a public forum in the Spring to report on survey results, showcase new resources, and celebrate individual and community grass roots efforts to protect our health and the environment by reducing the use of pesticides in Newton.

For more information or to help with the community survey and other projects, call Ellie Goldberg, 617/965-9637.