



## **Green Your School Fund Voting FAQ**

*As of June 28, 2016*

- **What is the Tom's of Maine Green Your School Fund?**

The "Green Your School Fund" is a new initiative from Tom's of Maine, a pioneer in making products that are natural, responsible and sustainable. The company has teamed up with DonorsChoose.org to give \$1 million dollars to classrooms nationwide so students can roll up their sleeves and understand at an early age the impact they can have on the planet. The fund is distributing more than \$900,000 to classrooms across the country and is rewarding the most innovative projects with additional funding.

Ten of the most creative projects, as determined by a panel of independent judges, were selected for a public vote. The project that receives the most votes will receive \$25,000 in funding to turn their project into a reality. Second place and third place winners will receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 respectively and seven honorable mention projects will receive \$2,000 each.

- **When will the voting happen?**

Voting kicks off on Monday, July 11, 2016 starting at 12:00 PM (noon) ET/9:00 AM PT and lasts through October 17, 2016.

- **How often can I vote?**

You can vote for one project finalist one time per day. For the purposes of voting, a "day" is defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 12:00:01 AM Eastern Time and ending at 11:59:59 PM Eastern Time with the exception of the first day of voting (July 11, 2016), which constitutes a 12-hour period (12:00:01 PM Eastern Time and ending at 11:59:59 PM Eastern Time).

- **Can I vote from more than one web browser?**

No. If more than one browser is used to vote multiple times per day, or if any school entity encourages or employs this practice to its employees or supporters, votes and/or the classroom project will be disqualified.

- **How were the finalists selected?**

A panel of five judges chose the ten most creative ideas as finalists. Projects were evaluated based on overall originality (50%), degree of student engagement (25%), and topical relevance (25%).

- **Who were the judges that selected the finalists?**

Our judges are independent experts with strong ties to environmental goodness and a passion for creating a healthier planet.

#### **Judging Panel**

- **Kevin Jonas**, musician and actor – over the course of his career, Kevin, a father of one with another child on the way, has been a strong partner to numerous charities and organizations supporting both education and environmental causes.
  - **Kate Sheppard**, Senior Energy & Environment Reporter for Huffington Post Green – Kate is an award-winning journalist who has spent her career shedding light on environmental and energy issues. Kate is also a new mother and serves on the board of the Society of Environmental Journalists.
  - **Tom Szaky**, TerraCycle CEO – since founding his company in 2001 at the age of 19, Tom has developed TerraCycle into a global leader in the collection and repurposing of otherwise non-recyclable post-consumer and post-industrial waste.
  - **Jahana Hayes**, 2016 National Teacher of the Year – a mother and a history teacher at John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, Connecticut, Jahana inspires her students daily to think beyond the classroom to contribute to their local communities through service and volunteerism.
  - **Kerri Jablonski**, Founder of the *I am the Maven* blog – a Seattle-based mother of three, Kerri uses her popular blog to discuss parenting, education and social causes, among other topics.
- **In addition to voting, can I make a financial donation to support teachers?**  
Yes! Individuals are encouraged to donate directly to support their favorite project or classroom in 40 states around the country. Whether you have \$5 to contribute or \$50, every donation helps inspire kids to learn and create. Simply log on to [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org), head to Match Offers and click on the Green Your School Fund link. Find your favorite project or school and then click the “Match Offer” logo to make a donation.