



JULY NEWSLETTER

The Zero Waste Schools newsletter will help you get your school on a path toward generating zero waste through waste prevention, recycling, composting, and food recovery. You'll also find resources that connect zero waste to healthy eating, school gardens, and environmental education and action.

Feel free to share the newsletter with friends, colleagues, and students who are interested in zero waste!

[Sign up for ZWS news](#)

COMPOSTING & RECYCLING

Understanding New Recycling Changes

The recycling industry is changing. In recent months, recycling haulers across the country have been changing what recyclables they accept, and it has been making headlines. Here are some articles that explain how and why:



- The New York Times: [Your Recycling Gets Recycled, Right? Maybe, or Maybe Not](#) looks at why the industry is changing and what happens to the items you put in your recycling bins.
- National Geographic: [Plastic Recycling Is Broken. Here's How to Fix It](#) details how China's decision to stop buying the world's discarded plastic is affecting the recycling industry around the world.

What does this mean for schools?

Check with your school's recycling hauler to determine what they are accepting, along with how much contamination is acceptable. Sorting stations and signs may need to be altered to reflect the new recycling standards for your school.

What does this mean for homes?

Check with your municipality's waste hauler to determine what they are accepting. If you live in the City of Chicago, you can take a [Recycle by City quiz](#) to test your recycling know-how.

Ogden International School Organizes Their First Green Locker Clean-Out

The seniors at [Ogden International School of Chicago](#) used SGA's new [Green Locker Clean-Out Guide](#) to reduce their waste as they cleaned out lockers at the end of the year. Ogden teacher Bill Campillo said, "The first attempt at a green locker clean out was a big success as we diverted an estimated 60 percent of what would have gone to a trash landfill into recycling and donations. We were able to collect a huge pile of paper that almost filled an entire recycling dumpster and collect several boxes of donated clothing and school supplies." We applaud Ogden on its success!



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Kindergarten & New Student Orientation: A Perfect Time for Introducing Your School's Zero Waste Program



Kindergarten & New Student Orientation is a great time to introduce your school's newest students and their parents to your zero waste and sustainability efforts. Starting at a new school can be both exciting and intimidating, and many students may not have previous experience recycling or composting. Help new students feel comfortable and part

of the school community by incorporating some of the ideas in this guide. Orientation is also a perfect time for engaging new parents with zero waste or green team volunteer opportunities. Introducing your school's zero waste program during orientation will set your newest students up for being environmental leaders of the future and making a difference in protecting the health of the planet.

Click [HERE](#) for SGA's orientation guide.

Summer Reading

The [Summer 2018 issue](#) of the Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly, published by the [Green Schools National Network](#), is out now. The focus in this issue is on K-12 environmental and sustainability literacy.

In case you missed it, their March 2018 issue was all about getting to zero: [Zero Schools: Exploring the Path to Net-Zero Waste, Water, Energy.](#)

WASTE PREVENTION

Our children's plastic lives seen through lunches



What does plastic waste look like in schools around the world? CNN celebrated World Oceans Day (June 8) by exploring that question through [#ZeroPlasticLunch](#).

In the article, [Our children's plastic lives seen through lunches](#), CNN visited schools around the world to see first hand how much single-use plastic waste takes place in the lunchroom. There was also an assessment of how aware students are of plastic pollution. It is eye opening to see how different school lunches and level of awareness can be from Japan to the United States to Venezuela.

HEALTHY LOCAL FOOD

USDA Announces New Farm to School Grants

On June 21, the USDA announced "\$5.2 million in grant awards to bring nutritious, local foods into schools and create new economic opportunities for farmers. The grants, part of the [USDA Farm to School Program](#), will impact over 6,000 schools and 2.8 million students nationwide."

We're excited to hear of new Farm to School grants for local food and nutrition education for students, and to build connections between schools and farms! Farm to School means kids win, communities win, and farmers win. You can visit [Illinois Farm to School Network](#) to learn how Illinois is supporting healthy and local food in schools.

Read the USDA news release [HERE](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

Midwest Compost Operator Training Course

For the second consecutive year, Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology and the Soil and Waste Resources Discipline will host a [Midwest Compost Operator Training Course](#). The immersive three-day course includes classroom, hands-on, and site visit experiences. It is taught by experienced instructors drawn from around the Midwest. Content is geared to new and experienced compost facility operators, on-farm composters, extension educators, city administrators and zoning officials and others -- anyone who would like to understand more about composting or desires to improve their compost quality, regulations, marketing and profitability. The course takes place **July 10-12** at the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. Register [HERE](#).



If you are a graduating high school senior, you may be eligible for a 50% off discount. To receive the discount you must send a scanned copy of your high school diploma to Wisconsin.Institute.for.Sustainable.Technology@uwsp.edu and pay by check, payable in the amount of \$337.50 per person to the University of WI- Stevens Point and mail to:

Angie Hauer
Program Development Coordinator
Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST)
2001 Fourth Avenue, SCI D274
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Greenworks! Grants

Project Learning Tree offers [GreenWorks! grants](#) of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment.

The Chicago Conservation Corps' Fall 2018 Sustainability Leadership Training Series

The Chicago Conservation Corps is now recruiting for its Fall 2018 Sustainability Leadership Training Series. Learn from community and environmental leaders about urban



sustainability challenges and opportunities for change, then lead a sustainability service project in your community with support and resources from the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

To participate in the training course, you must be an adult Chicago resident, attend an orientation, and submit an application. The 8-week course will be held at Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab (4445 S. King Dr.) on Thursdays, September 6 through October 25, 6:15–8:45pm. A \$125 fee covers course participation; financial assistance is available upon request. Orientations begin in August. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

EVENTS



Fox River Cleanup

July 15, 10 am

Beginning at Voyageur's Landing in Elgin the cleanup will head downstream and end at Gail Borden Library. Pizza will be provided after the cleanup. Please contact jcg7697@gmail.com or 630-715-6001 to RSVP.



Closed Loop Forum & Fest at The Plant

July 28, 9 am – 7 pm

Plant Chicago's Closed Loop Forum & Fest 2018 is focused on cultivating local circular economies. Live music, workshops, and more!



WALL-E screening at Millennium Park

July 31, 6:30 pm

In a distant, but not so unrealistic, future, mankind has abandoned the trash-covered earth, and WALL-E, a garbage collecting robot, has been left to clean up the mess. Mesmerized with trinkets of Earth's history and show tunes, WALL-E inadvertently embarks on a space journey with his sprightly pet cockroach that will ultimately decide the fate of mankind.

Do you have feedback for Zero Waste Schools?

Contact us with feedback, recommendations, stories to include, and more at zerowaste@sevengenerationsahead.org



This newsletter was created by **Seven Generations Ahead**.
Funding for Zero Waste Schools is provided by **Peoples Gas** and
Food:Land:Opportunity, a collaboration between Kinship Foundation and The
Chicago Community Trust and funded through the Searle Funds at The Chicago
Community Trust.

