



AUGUST 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](#)

Back-to-school zero waste guide



Fall is a busy time as parents, teachers, and children prepare for a new school year. Back-to-school is an appropriate time to gather school items that promote environmental sustainability and save you money. Working together to incorporate zero waste can be simple and fun, too. Start your school year off right with SGA's [Back to School Supplies: A Zero Waste Guide](#).

We Compost Recognition

Is your school reducing its waste by composting?

Get recognized for your efforts with [We Compost](#), a free recognition program of the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC) that promotes K-12 schools, universities, businesses, and others that participate in a commercial compost program or compost onsite.



There are three levels (Gold, Silver, and Green) depending on how you compost, and it's an easy application form.

We Compost schools receive the following:

- Window decal of the We Compost logo
- We Compost icon to add to your website
- Listing on IFSC website including your logo, street address, and website link
- Inclusion on a Google map of all We Compost partners, and more.

Register for the Illinois Great Apple Crunch

Save the Date!

ILLINOIS GREAT APPLE CRUNCH



Thursday, October 10, 2019

The Illinois Great Apple Crunch is a daylong celebration of fresh, local apples. The Illinois Crunch is a part of the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch celebrated across the Midwest. In Illinois, participants join children and adults from across the Great Lakes region in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin in celebrating National Farm to School Month by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples at noon on the second Thursday of October.

Crunch day involves schools, early child care sites, hospitals, colleges, community organizations, after-school and residential programs and more. Let's continue to make Illinois the loudest Crunch in the region!

Register [HERE](#) for this year's Crunch that will take place on Oct. 10.

Ray Elementary School and former Gov. Pat Quinn join forces to ban polystyrene

As part of their Pilot Light Food Advocacy Project, Ray Elementary School's 6th graders proposed a Chicago city-wide ban on restaurant usage of polystyrene. Students developed a petition, wrote letters, and spoke at city hall to advocate for the banning of polystyrene. Former governor Pat Quinn met with the students and encouraged their activism and enthusiasm.

Read more [HERE](#).

Greta Thunberg continues to fight for climate action

Climate activist **Greta Thunberg** will travel to the United States via a zero-emissions racing boat to speak at United Nations climate summits and attend environmental protests. After sparking the worldwide school strike climate protests, Greta now sets her sights on reaching a new audience on the UN stage, where world leaders will be in attendance. Learn more about Greta [HERE](#):

- [Climate Activist Greta Thunberg Calls For Systemic Action](#) (WBEZ)
- [Greta Thunberg to sail across Atlantic for UN climate summits](#) (The Guardian)
- ['Biggest compliment yet': Greta Thunberg welcomes oil chief's 'greatest threat' label](#) (The Guardian)

Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly

In case you missed it: Here's the [June 2019 edition](#) of the Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly, which focuses on "Purposeful Learning: The intersection of Place-, Project-, and Problem-Based Learning."



Center for Green Schools: School District Scholarship

The [Center for Green Schools](#) at USGBC is now accepting applications for the 2019–2020 School District Scholarship. The scholarship will provide peer-to-peer connections, professional development, targeted education, and technical support for staff members who are working in sustainability across their districts.

Who can apply? The scholarship is available to school systems of all sizes, but to qualify, school districts must have a current staff person who spends a minimum of 50 percent of their time on sustainability-related efforts.

Deadline: The application is open through Aug. 12.

Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

Grant Opportunities

[Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant:](#) Projects for this Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant must emphasize student involvement and increase the educational and wildlife habitat values of the site. The applicant must be prepared to maintain and commit resources to the project for at least five years. The project must be implemented on school grounds or another public place (for example, a park or nature center/forest preserve district land). Preliminary application deadline is Oct. 31.

[Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant:](#) Teachers of grades PreK–12 in Illinois, including home-schooling teachers, may apply to this Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant program to receive funding for natural resources-related field trips. Funding priority is given to single-day, outdoor field trips. Application deadline is Jan. 31, 2020.

[CHS Foundation Classroom Grant:](#) CHS Foundation provides \$500 grants each year to PreK–12 teachers who have classroom projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more. The deadline for applications is Sept. 15.

[Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom](#) offers two grants:

- Teacher Project Grants provide up to \$300 to PreK–12th grade teachers for projects that promote agricultural literacy in the classroom. Application deadline is Oct. 11.
- Teacher Book Grants provide up to \$250 in books from a pre-selected list of titles to help teachers integrate agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas. Application deadline is Oct. 11.

Seven Generations Ahead is hiring!



Seven
Generations
Ahead

SGA is hiring for the position of Sustainability Program Associate. The entry-level position will provide support across a variety of SGA projects and programs, including Zero Waste Schools. Learn more about the job and how to apply [HERE](#).

Support Zero Waste Schools

Do you value the work of Seven Generations Ahead and our Zero Waste Schools Program? Your support will help us help more schools. Here are two easy ways to give:

- **[Amazon Smile:](#)** Choose SGA as your charity of choice and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to support our programs.



- Give a monetary gift to SGA via our [donate page](#).

Events



Canoe and Clean Ups

One Saturday each month, June 29–Oct. 31
Enjoy the Chicago River with Friends, and make the river cleaner while you're at it. Friends of the Chicago River provides the canoes, the equipment, and the know-how. Cost \$10.



Great Lakes Action Days

Various locations & dates
Join a Great Lakes Action Day organized by the Shedd Aquarium to give back to the wild places in your backyard.



Brandon's Basics: Bike Mechanics Orientation

First Saturday of every month, 11 am–12 pm
Chicago, IL
A great introduction for volunteers who want to learn about bicycle mechanics.
Free and open to everyone.
Working Bikes gives donated bicycles new life by redistributing them as tools of empowerment in local and global communities.



K-12 Environmental Education: Guidelines for Excellence Workshop

Oct. 26, 9 am – 4 pm
Springfield, IL
Participants in this one-day workshop will learn how to apply the North American Association for Environmental Education's publication *K-12 Environmental Education: Guidelines for Excellence*, a roadmap to achieving environmental literacy.

Do you have feedback for Zero Waste Schools?

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

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STAY CONNECTED



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Food:Land:Opportunity
Localizing the Chicago Foodshed