



## SEPTEMBER 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](#)

### Global Climate Strikes & UN Climate Summit

Climate action is at the forefront in September. Youth continue to lead and be heard.

**Global climate strikes will take place on Friday, Sept. 20 and Friday, Sept. 27.**

Adults are invited to join the youth in their call for climate justice. To learn more about the strike and find an event location, click [HERE](#).

Scheduled in between these two strikes is the UN Climate Summit in New York:

- Sept. 21: [UN Youth Climate Summit](#) Youth leaders from around the world will meet with global decision-makers to find solutions to climate change.
- Sept. 23: [UN Climate Action Summit](#) World leaders will be provided opportunities to accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Greta Thunberg has been a leading youth voice for climate action. To learn more about her and her efforts, see [Teen Climate Activist Greta Thunberg Arrives In New York After Sailing The Atlantic](#) (NPR, Aug. 28, 2019).

### Connecting Youth with Sustainability in Faith Communities

Faith communities are another way youth can make a difference through efforts to care for the Earth.

#### **Faith in Place**

[Faith in Place](#) is a nonprofit that empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities. Their 4th annual [Green Team Summit](#),

which includes sessions on *Sprouting Environmental Action Through Youth*



*Empowerment*, will take place at the The Field Museum in Chicago on Saturday, Sept. 14.

### Season of Creation

Many churches and parochial schools around the world will be celebrating the [Season of Creation](#) from Sept. 1 – Oct. 4 with the theme of protecting the web of life. The Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation.

The [Archdiocese of Chicago](#) provides information on numerous events taking place to celebrate, including film screenings, participating in Climate Action Day on Sept. 20, and Season of Creation resources for schools.

---

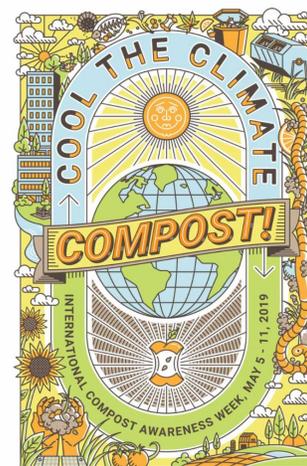
## ICAW Poster Contest

The International Compost Awareness Week Committee is now accepting entries for their annual poster contest. This year's theme is "Soil Loves Compost". The poster winner will receive a \$500 prize, and the winning poster will be used to promote International Compost Awareness Week, May 3–9, 2020.

**Who can participate:** Anyone ages 10+. There are 3 contest divisions: grades 3–7, grades 8–12, and college–adult. The best from each division will be entered into the final contest.

**How to enter:** Visit the [ICAW Poster Contest website](#) for contest the rules and to submit your application.

**Deadline:** Nov. 1.



---

## Composting Workshop for Chicago Public Schools



Interested in learning how your school can compost lunchroom fruit/vegetable scraps and garden trimmings on-site? The next workshop for the CPS Composting Cohort is taking place on **Friday, Nov. 8, 9:00–12:30**, at Waters Elementary School, 4540 N. Campbell Ave. Pete Leki, Director of Ecology Programs at Waters (and composting guru), will lead the workshop.

Space is limited and registration is required.

Contact Pete for more information or to register: [petelekisan@gmail.com](mailto:petelekisan@gmail.com).

---

## One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest



Enter the [Young Filmmakers Contest](#) by creating a well-researched 3–8 minute film about one of 6 sustainability topics: energy, food, transportation, waste, water, or open space and ecosystems.

Winners will be awarded cash prizes/scholarships ranging from \$100–\$1,000 and have their film premiered at the One Earth Film Festival (OEFF) in March 2020. OEFF will also give a matching grant to an organization of the winner's choice.

**Who can participate:** Students ages 8–25.

**Submission deadline:** Jan. 5, 2020. Don't wait! Start now. Check out [past winners](#) to help you get started.

---

## 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

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. Join children and adults from across the Great Lakes in celebrating by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples at noon.

Crunch day involves schools, early child care sites, hospitals, colleges, community

**Save the Date!**

# ILLINOIS GREAT APPLE CRUNCH



**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

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.

## Grant Opportunities

**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**.

**SWANCC Waste Reduction Grants:** The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's (SWANCC) Waste Reduction Grant Program is available to K-12 public and private schools located in SWANCC-member communities. This grant program provides funding and guidance to help schools understand their waste streams; establish reduce, reuse, recycling, and composting initiatives; and educate teachers, staff, and students about being better stewards of our environment. Grant request range is \$200 to \$2,500, with a dollar-for-dollar match from the school. Deadline to apply is **Oct. 25**.

**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**.

**Annie's Garden Grants:** Annie's wants to help schools build their own gardens. This grant will provide funding for edible school gardens. The deadline to apply is **Nov. 1**.

**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**.

**Captain Planet Foundation Grants:** These grants are intended to empower youth by providing hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities, inspire youth and communities to become agents of change for their environment, serve as a





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.



### 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.



### Pumpkin Smash 2019

Nov. 2, 9 am – 12 pm

Don't trash it, smash it! Green your Halloween at this year's annual Pumpkin Smash. Rather than letting it languish in a landfill, bring your jack-o-lantern to the annual Pumpkin Smash to be composted – nature's method of recycling. Participating locations can be found throughout Illinois.

#BERECYCLED



America Recycles Day  
A KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL INITIATIVE

### America Recycles Day

Nov. 15

America Recycles Day, a program of Keep America Beautiful, is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Keep America Beautiful offers guides, tools, templates and tips to make it easy to organize your own local event.



### 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.

## Do you have feedback for Zero Waste Schools?

Contact us with feedback, recommendations, stories to include, and more at [zerowaste@sevendgenerationsahead.org](mailto:zerowaste@sevendgenerationsahead.org)

Seven Generations Ahead | 708.660.9909 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

STAY CONNECTED



This newsletter was created by **Seven Generations Ahead**.  
Funding for Zero Waste Schools is provided by **Peoples Gas**, **North Shore 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.

**PEOPLES GAS**<sup>®</sup>  
*Community Fund*



**Food:Land:Opportunity**  
Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

**NORTH SHORE GAS**<sup>®</sup>  
*Community Fund*