



## OCTOBER 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](#)

### Visit a Zero Waste School on Oct. 23



Interested in seeing a zero waste lunchroom in action? Join Seven Generations Ahead for the Fall meeting of Go Green Illinois Schools on Oct. 23, 10:30–12:00, at Red Oak Elementary School in Highland Park, IL.

Hear about their process of participating in the Zero Waste Schools–Lake County Program and observe a lunchroom that has shifted operations and minds towards generating zero waste through source reduction, recycling, composting, and food recovery. Registration required. To learn more or to register, click [HERE](#).

### Youth Climate Strikes: Turning Momentum Into Action



The Sept. 20th youth-led climate strikes held across the globe are said to have been the largest protests for climate change in history. Students passionately raised their concerns for the climate, including these [Evanston Township High School](#) students.

Greta Thunberg is the 16 year-old Swedish activist who sparked the youth climate strikes. To learn more about the 'Greta Effect', click [HERE](#). Listen to [Greta's speech](#) at the UN Climate Action Summit.

Take your action to the next level by starting a zero waste lunchroom with composting to reduce your school's greenhouse gas emissions. Visit SGA's [Zero Waste Schools Toolkit](#) for resources to get started. Reduce, reuse, recycle, resist!

### Green Your Halloween Guide



From pumpkins to costumes and trick-or-treating to party supplies, there are many ways to enjoy a more environmentally-sustainable Halloween and still have fun each fall.

Promote zero waste for the planet and save money with SGA's [Green Your Halloween Guide](#).

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## A Night at Revolution Brewing: Fundraiser for SGA



Please support the work of Seven Generations Ahead by enjoying local beer and a fun evening in Chicago!

### A Night at Revolution Brewing

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 6:30–8:30

2323 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL

Enjoy awesome Revolution craft beer, speed trivia, and the opportunity to learn about our work, including our new climate crisis initiatives.

Ticket price of \$35 gets you unlimited drinks and food. Get [TICKETS HERE](#). If you can't make it, but want to support SGA's work, please [DONATE HERE](#). Thank you for supporting Seven Generations Ahead!

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## Green Apple Day of Service



The [Green Apple Day of Service](#), a program of the Center for Green Schools, is an opportunity to develop a project that has a sustainable impact on your school. Choose one of their [projects ideas](#) or create your own. Participation is open all year round, but to become eligible for the 2020 Green

Apple Awards, register and complete your project by Dec. 31, 2019.

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## Smarter Lunchrooms Movement – Annual Symposium

Learn about starting a **Zero Waste Lunchroom** during a free webinar, presented by SGA's Susan Casey on **Friday, Oct. 11, 11:00–11:30 CST**. It is one of several special topics to be presented at this year's annual symposium. To join the ZOOM meeting presentation, go to <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/445267924>.

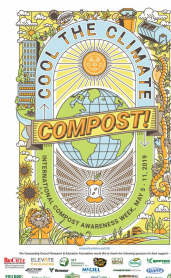
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## International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest

This year's theme is "Soil Loves Compost". The winner will receive a \$500 prize, and the winning poster will be used to promote ICAW, 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](#).  
**Deadline:** Nov. 1.



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## Composting Workshop for Chicago Public Schools



Interested in learning to compost lunchroom fruit/vegetable scraps and yard waste onsite at your school? The next workshop for the CPS Composting Cohort is **Friday, Nov. 8, 9:00–12:30**, at Waters School, 4540 N. Campbell Ave. Pete Leki, Waters' Director of Ecology Programs, will lead. Space is limited.

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 3–8 minute film on the topic of 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 in March.

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

**Deadline:** Jan. 5, 2020. Don't wait! Start now. Check out [past winners](#).



## Register for the Illinois Great Apple Crunch



The Illinois Great Apple Crunch is a daylong celebration of fresh local apples and is a part of the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch. Join students from across the Midwest by crunching into locally grown apples at noon. Let's make Illinois the loudest Crunch in the region! This year's Crunch that will take place on **Oct. 10**. Register [HERE](#).

## Grant Opportunities

[Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County Waste Reduction Grants](#) For K–12 public and private schools in SWANCC–member communities. Deadline **Oct. 25**.

[Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant](#) Projects must increase the educational and wildlife habitat values of the site. Preliminary application deadline **Oct. 31**.

[Annie's Garden Grant](#) Annie's wants to help schools build their own gardens. This grant will provide funding for edible school gardens. Deadline **Nov. 1**.

[Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant](#) For teachers of grades PreK–12 seeking funding for natural resources–related field trips. Deadline **Jan. 31, 2020**.

## Events



### [MWRD Road Shows](#)

Three events hosted by Chicago–area schools from 9am–12pm:

Oct. 5: Science & Arts Academy, Des Plaines, IL

Oct. 26: Chicago HS for Agricultural Sciences, Chicago, IL

Nov 16: Von Steuben Metro HS, Chicago, IL

Learn how the MWRD manages wastewater and recovers resources.

Includes STEM activities for kids and chance to win a rain barrel.

### [The Power of Place: A Walk Through Time](#)

Oct. 17–18; Grayslake, IL

Visit Prairie Crossing Charter School, a Best of Green Schools award recipient, for a two–day exploration of *The Power of Place: A Walk Through Time*. This onsite seminar will provide an opportunity to see place–based, project–based, and problem–based learning in action.

**Scholarships now available.**





### Go Green Illinois Schools Fall Meeting

Oct. 23, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm; Highland Park, IL  
Join SGA at Red Oak Elementary School to learn about their process of participating the Zero Waste Schools–Lake County Program. Get a chance to see the lunchroom in action. Registration required.



### K-12 Environmental Education: Guidelines for Excellence Workshop

Oct. 26, 9 am – 4 pm; Springfield, IL  
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.



### Pumpkin Smash 2019

Nov. 2, 9 am – 12 pm  
Don't trash it, smash it! Rather than letting your pumpkin languish in a landfill, bring it to an a Pumpkin Smash location to be composted or plan an event in your own community.



### America Recycles Day

Nov. 15  
America Recycles Day is dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Keep America Beautiful's guides, tools, templates and tips to make it easy to organize your own local event.

**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](#)



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