



MARCH 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

Northwood Jr. High launches zero waste lunchroom



Recognizing the impact that waste reduction efforts would have on his students and the environment, Northwood Jr. High principal Sergio Gonzalez did not want to wait until the school was in its new home next year before embarking on a path to zero waste. He understood that there was no time to waste and that the students' new habits would easily carry over into their new space.

Prior to starting a zero waste program with SGA, Northwood was not sorting any lunchroom waste, resulting in 15 bags of trash per day. The school was definitely ready for a change. Through composting, recycling, tray-stacking, and a share table, their lunchroom now generates only one bag of trash per day, resulting in an 89% diversion by weight from landfills. Way to go, Northwood!

Read more about how Northwood made it happen [HERE](#).

Braeside School creates video about their zero waste initiative



SGA is proud to have helped Braeside Elementary School with their zero waste launch last May. Watch this wonderful [VIDEO](#) they created to teach their students and the wider community how their program works and to help inspire others. Well done!

Read more about Braeside's zero waste program launch [HERE](#).

2020 Best of Green Schools winners recognized

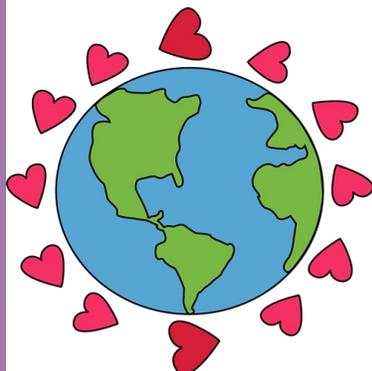
The 2020 Best of Green Schools Award winners were announced at the Green Schools Conference and Expo on March 2.



These recipients reflect the accomplishments in K-12 schools and beyond through grassroots organization, cross-sector collaboration, and hands-on experiential learning to build healthy, sustainable learning spaces and foster the next generation of 21st century leaders.

Read about the winner of each category [HERE](#).

Time to start planning for Earth Day 2020



The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is April 22. Here are some ideas to get you and your school inspired:

- [Earth Day Every Day Activities](#) (San Francisco Unified School District)
- [Earth Day Network](#)
- [Wild Classroom Teaching Resources](#) (World Wildlife Fund)
- [Environmental Education Resources](#) (National Environmental Educators Foundation)

Learn about the history of Earth Day [HERE](#).

Make a difference through civic engagement

In the Winter 2020 edition of *Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly* you will learn how high-quality civic education and engagement can help students develop the skills and competencies needed to participate in their local and global communities.

To access the complete edition, "Creating the Future: Making a Difference Through Civic Engagement," click [HERE](#).

One Earth Film Festival 2020 starts this weekend!

Screenings will take place March 6–15 at locations throughout Chicago and surrounding counties. The fest will showcase 26 top-issue, thought-provoking environmental films and lead audiences in interactive post-film discussions focused on solutions.



For the full schedule, click [HERE](#).

RSVP for FREE Young Filmmakers Contest winner screenings and awards [HERE](#). For a listing of all youth and family programs for Ages 3–13+, click [HERE](#).

Meatless Monday, a resource for K–12 schools



As student interest in and enthusiasm for plant-based options grows, the nonprofit initiative Meatless Monday offers a simple and economical program to implement.

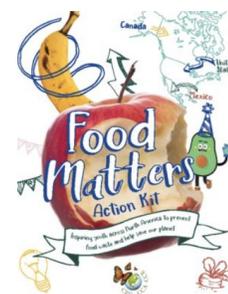
Meatless Monday provides free resources, news, recipes, and promotional materials to help K–12 schools and other organizations integrate healthy, meatless meals into their menus and reduce their environmental impact.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Meatless Monday and to download their resources, including their Foodservice Implementation Guide for School Cafeterias Grades K–12.

Food Matters Action Kit

This kit is loaded with informative resources and hands-on, creative activities to inspire youth of all ages to prevent food waste at home, at school, and in their communities.

There is a Kids' Action Kit designed for ages 5–13, as well as a Youth Action Kit for ages 14–25. You can download the kit and find out more about the Commission for Environmental Cooperation [HERE](#).



Grant opportunities

Garden For Nature Grant Program: This West Cook Wild Ones grant is for nonprofits and organizations who would like to improve the environment and engage the public through a native plant garden. Applicants must be located in

West Cook County. Deadline Mar. 15.

Action for Healthy Kids school grants These grants provide schools the resources for students to eat better, stay physically active, and be better prepared to learn. Deadline Apr. 3.

Pay it forward – Donate to Zero Waste Schools

When you donate to Zero Waste Schools, you support:

- teaching the next generation the How and Why of recycling, composting, and food recovery
- drastically reducing the amount of waste that schools send to landfills
- the creation of new tools/resources, including our forthcoming *Food Waste Reduction Toolkit for Illinois Schools*



Please **SUPPORT THIS WORK** by donating today.
We have zero time to waste. Thank you for your generosity.

Events



Teaching climate:

Understanding climate change science, impacts, and action

Mar. 12, 19 & 26, 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Westcott Elementary School, Chicago, IL

In this FREE Climate Clinic series, teachers will gain the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to build educational lesson plans for this spring and next year. Sessions will include meeting local experts, building your knowledge of climate science, and exploring climate justice using interactive, inquiry-based lessons and investigating the local impacts of climate change. Presented by Animalia Project, Field Museum, Openlands, and Chicago Wilderness.

Go Green Illinois Schools – U.S. EPA Presentation

Mar. 12, 10–11 am, Kenilworth, IL

Better understand how to share the EPA's energy efficiency, environmental health, citizen science, air monitoring, and water sampling resources. Speakers: Kara Belle, School Assistance Center Coordinator, and Megan Gavin, Environmental Education Coordinator from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

RSVP [HERE](#).

Chicago Community Gardeners Association 8th Annual Conference: Connections Through Gardening

Mar. 21, Whitney Young High School, Chicago, IL

Offers twelve informative and engaging workshops on topics from soil science, health and well being, tree planting, permaculture, and more.

Adults \$25. Students \$15 (with ID).

RSVP [HERE](#).



Earth Day 50th Anniversary Celebration: Bill McKibben via Skype with Local Sustainability Experts

Apr. 2, 3–7 pm, River Forest, IL

Bill McKibben was among the first writers to warn of the danger of global warming. He will join via Skype at 6 pm. Throughout the afternoon community sustainability experts will share their work and invite us all into active participation in caring for our Earth. FREE.

Earth Day Parks & Preserves Clean-Up

Apr. 18

Join (or lead!) a clean-up effort in a Chicago park near you. Friends of

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
EARTH DAY
2020
EARTHDAYCHICAGO.ORG



the Parks' 50th Anniversary of Earth Day Parks & Preserves Clean-Up is in partnership with the Chicago Park District, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and many community groups across Chicagoland.

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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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.

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