



JUNE 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](#)

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Winners 2020

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools winners for 2020 were announced in early May.

Green Ribbon Schools awards schools, districts and postsecondary institutions that:

- reduce environmental impact and costs
- improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff
- provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



To apply, schools in Illinois first submit applications to the Illinois Green Ribbon Program. Applications are reviewed at the state level, and the top scoring schools are then submitted for consideration at the national level.

2020 honorees from Illinois:

- [Joseph Sears School – Kenilworth, IL](#)
- [College of Lake County – Grayslake, IL](#)

Click on the links above to read each school's application, learn what they've accomplished, and get inspiration for your own school or district.

2020 honorees from across the U.S. can be seen [HERE](#). See current and past honorees from Illinois and read more about the Illinois Green Ribbon program [HERE](#).

Be on the look out this September for the 2021 application on the [Illinois Green Ribbon Program](#) website.

[Microplastic Madness](#)

Microplastic Madness "is the story of 56 fifth graders from P.S. 15 in Red Hook, Brooklyn – living on the frontline of the climate crisis – whose actions on plastic pollution morph into extraordinary leadership and scalable victories." The award-winning film was produced by Cafeteria Culture.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the trailer.

[Special screenings](#) are available in honor of World Oceans Day:

- Schools/teachers – Thu. June 4
- Families & friends – Sat. June 6



Request a Climate Action Ambassador presentation



Our partners at the Illinois Green Alliance have launched a new volunteer program, **Climate Action Ambassadors**. These ambassadors are offering presentations to educate their communities on ways to reduce their carbon footprint and highlight changes individuals can take guided by ideas from Paul Hawken's Project Drawdown. Presentations tailored to middle and high school students are available.

Contact Ashley Marinko, amarinko@illinoisgreenalliance.org, if you'd like to bring a presentation to your community or school.

Summer reading lists

Encourage the students and young people in your life to expand their horizons and learn more about nature and taking care of our planet. Check out these lists of recommended books:

[Top Children's Books on the Environment](#)
(A Mighty Girl)

[Children's Books about Climate Change](#)
(Yale Climate Connection)

[25 Books That Teach Kids To Care About The Environment](#)(HuffPost)

[34 Nature Books for Kids](#) (Outdoor Families Magazine)

[10 Books Climate Activists Are Reading Now](#) (Yes! Magazine)



Sustainability Storytelling Scholarship

Congratulations to **Evanston Township High School** senior **Bella Hubbard** on being awarded the [Sustainability Storytelling Scholarship](#) for her climate activism and leadership at school and in her community.

The U.S. Green Building Council's Living Standard campaign and the Center for Green Schools awarded this national scholarship to two high school seniors who have not only incorporated sustainability into their own lives, but have also taken

action and inspired others to do the same. Bella's passion and leadership have helped lay the foundation for a thriving youth climate movement at her school and in the City of Evanston.

Be sure to check out Bella's [VIDEO](#) submission.



Boulder Valley School District setting an example

If you are looking for ideas and inspiration to make your school food system more sustainable, take a look at [Waste Not, Want Not: Boulder Valley School District's School Food Project Leads the Way in K-12 Sustainable Food Systems](#), a story featured in a recent edition of *Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly*.

Learn more about the district's exemplary food service department by visiting the [School Food Project](#).



World Environment Day – June 5



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Celebrated every June 5 since 1974, [World Environment Day](#) is the United Nations' primary way of encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment. It has been a platform for engaging governments, businesses, and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue. This year's theme is **biodiversity**.

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

Dig into this year's theme with [Earth School](#). For the 30 days between Earth Day and World Environment Day, the United Nations Environment Programme and TED-Ed have partnered to launch Earth School. Each day offers a new Quest that will help you understand and celebrate our natural world, while learning about how dependent we are on our planet. Each Quest includes a discovery video and quiz, combined with a series of engaging learning resources — all curated by environmental experts.

My Chicago River Day Summer Challenge

Help create a Litter Free Chicago River by joining the Friends of the Chicago River's [My Chicago River Day Summer Challenge](#).

For the past 28 years, Friends has hosted Chicago River Day, an annual spring cleaning event all along the river system. Due to COVID-19, Friends has adjusted the way they are hosting Chicago River Day this year.

Instead of picking up litter on one day, volunteers are encouraged to go out any day this summer to work together, but safely apart, to make the river and our communities litter free.



Volunteers who participate are asked to review safety precautions, report about the litter they collect (to receive a Chicago River Day 2020 t-shirt), post a photo, and promote the Summer Challenge to friends and family.

My Chicago River Day Summer Challenge was kicked off with an online event on May 9 by Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5th) and Friends' Executive Director Margaret Frisbie. The Summer Challenge also includes online educational programming at 10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month through September 19. These programs will cover river history, ecology, wildlife, water quality, and climate change impacts on the river system.

To learn more and sign up, click [HERE](#).

Events



Sunrise School

Offered by the [Sunrise Movement](#), Sunrise School is an online community for young people focused on building the skills and power needed to confront the climate crisis.

New courses are being designed and will be announced in June.

[Sunrise Creative School](#) is currently offering three different courses. Applications for their Graphic Design for Organizing course are being accepted until June 5.



Virtual Professional Development Workshops

We All Live in a Watershed, June 17-19

Pollinators All Around Us!, June 24-26

Registration deadline: **June 10**

No cost for members; \$50 for non-network participants

SGA is participating in the Target Circle Program

You can vote for us and help direct Target's giving to benefit Seven Generations Ahead and Zero Waste Schools.

Vote by June 30. Every vote counts.
For full program details and restrictions, click [HERE](#).



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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Food:Land:Opportunity
Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

