



News & Updates

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Great Pumpkin Smash Nov. 7

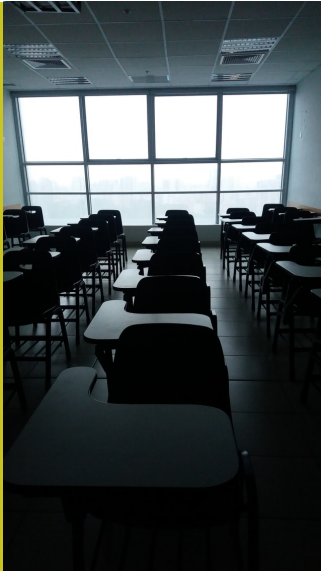
Local Oak Park residents can smash old pumpkins down the Barrie Park sled hill. All ages are welcome. You need to sign up for your slot, smash your pumpkin and then add the scraps to the compost receptacle. [SCARCE](#) has been promoting smashes for years and offers resources on how to have fun with this community activity. Given that this event is held outdoors and can be conducted with minimal contact the organizers do not expect to experience disruptions due to COVID-19. All participants are advised to wear a mask and

maintain proper social distancing.

Friends don't let friends allow pumpkins to rot in landfills.

Register with Park District of Oak Park

Climate change research suggests



"Higher temperatures are linked to worse test scores, but only for Black and Hispanic children. The likely culprit: a lack of air-conditioning."

Hotter Days Widen Racial Gap in the U.S.

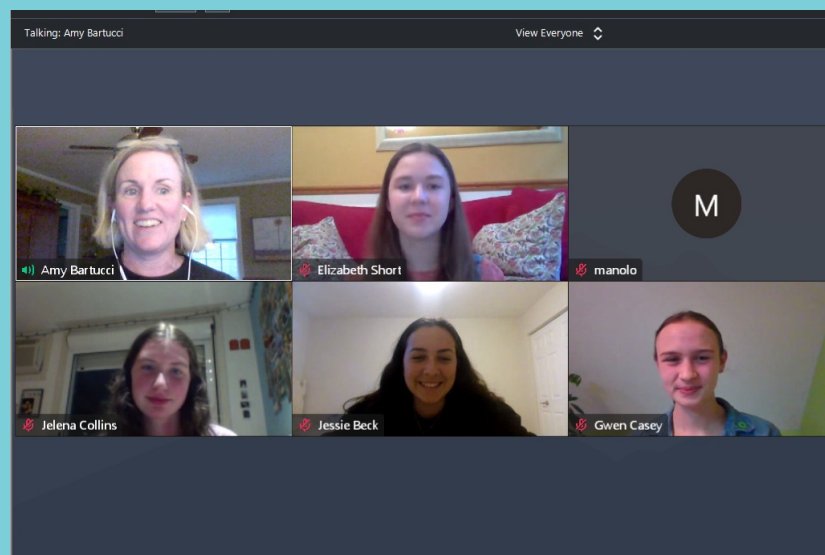
Congrats Climate Reality Leaders

It's Our Future's October meeting allowed time in the agenda for recently trained Climate Reality Corp Leaders to present about the climate crisis and actions we can all take to help solve it. Shout out to **Jelena C, Jessie B, Lizzie S, and Gwen C.** Keep On! The world needs you.

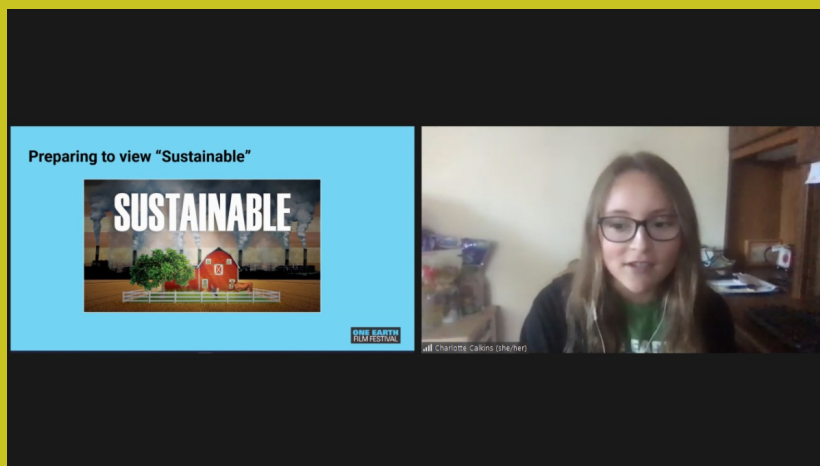
The **24 Hours of Reality** comes at a time when "the climate crisis, COVID-19, and a global reckoning on racial justice are turning our world upside down, forcing us to rethink normal and opening the door to truly transformative change."

Events are happening VIRTUALLY across the world and the Climate Reality Project site makes it easy to find information about presentations near you **HERE.**

Become a part of the conversation by tuning in to a virtual presentation by Climate Reality Leaders this October 10 - 11.



Lights, Camera, Action!



It's Our Future will be partnering with the One Earth Film Festival Youth Advisory Council this December on our final film screening of 2020. Stay tuned for more info!

Our September 18th screening of 'Sustainable' gathered

140 viewers from around the country. The discussion with BIPOC panelists focused on how schools & communities can increase access to both healthy and sustainable food as well as food justice issues. The event was co-facilitated by area high school student leaders and developed by a team of students. *Pictured: Charlotte Calkins, Student Facilitator*

Filmmaker, **Matt Wechsler**, talked about his recent business effort with opening the Village Farmstand in Evanston where our Illinois farmers deliver their organic produce and pantry items.

Young adult panelists included **Sarah Tate**, a first-year student attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on track to get a degree in Urban Planning with a concentration in Global Studies and a minor in Environmental Sustainability. Sarah is a 3-year Windy City Harvest Washington Park Alum who believes in urban gardening and solving the problem of food deserts.

Michael Diaz worked with the Urban Growers Collective, a Chicago non-profit that supports and provides a model for communities developing their own systems of food growth, preparation, and distribution. Michael had an amazing experience while working with Urban Growers Collective.

Thank you to the entire planning team and special shout out to It's Our Future members: Maddie Howe, Charlotte Meyer, Manolo Avalos, Emma Sage, and Jess Senger (alum).

It's Our Future's Program Managers, Amy and Gary, celebrated local foods, edible education, apples and building resilient food systems during the Great Apple Crunch with the Illinois Farm to School Network and the Seven Generations Ahead staff this week. Click on the button to see Gary's juggling skills in action!



[Seven Generations Ahead Website](#)

