



MAY 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](#)

Illinois Farm to School Summer Institute

The Illinois Farm to School Summer Institute is a revolutionary new way to find exactly what you need to deepen the impact of your farm to school program. This training opportunity is open to child feeding, education, and garden sites in Illinois.

- It's virtual, and it's free!
- Your Institute experience is driven by you. Attend when you have the time over the summer-- while eating lunch, after the kitchens close, after the summer school day ends, or with early morning coffee. What could be easier?
- You choose what you learn. We suggest resources, tools, and one-on-one training for the areas you need to move your program forward.
- Our training opportunity is open to any child feeding, garden, or education site team across Illinois.



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

Registration for the Institute ends soon. Don't miss this opportunity!

Are you an Illinois producer, local food distributor, hub or market?

We are inviting Illinois producers, hubs, and distributors to share their local food access information on a poster in our Local Food Gallery. These posters will be viewed by all of our participating site teams. There is **no cost** to be represented in the Local Food Gallery during this 75-day learning event.

Be noticed by schools, early care, and garden programs from across Illinois during the summer of 2021. We will add your information to the Whova platform in The Illinois Local Food Gallery. It's easy!

Posters may include:

- Pictures in JPG or PNG files

- Contact information and a brief description
- Website and social media links/tags
- Any links to your profile on local food search platforms

There is no cost to create a poster for the gallery, but there will be a limit to the number of posters we provide, so hurry! **Register for a poster** [HERE](#).

2021 Best of Green Schools finalists announced

The Center for Green Schools, in collaboration with the Green Schools National Network, has announced the finalists for the [2021 Best of Green Schools Awards](#). These awards celebrate the leaders—individuals, schools, campuses and organizations—that are working to advance green schools practices. The work of these finalists in five different categories represents the tremendous strides that green school leaders took this year, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The winners of the Best of Green Schools and [Green Apple](#) Awards will be announced at the [virtual Green School Conference](#) on June 29.

The 2021 Green Schools Conference

June 28-29



This year's virtual [Green Schools Conference](#) brings together everyone who makes green schools a reality, including the people who lead, operate, build, and teach in schools. Over the two half-days of programming, featuring keynotes, interactive education sessions, and peer group networking opportunities, participants will strive to make visible, measurable and lasting progress toward the three pillars of green schools: environmental impact, health impact and environmental and sustainability literacy.

The green schools community will come together to share success stories, adaptations, and strategies for continuing to empower our students and create healthy, sustainable places to learn as we navigate the new landscape created by the pandemic.

Early-bird pricing available through May 14.

Donate unwanted classroom and school supplies

Cleaning out your classroom, moving spaces, or simply have items that you don't need? [CCRx](#) and [SCARCE](#) accept all sorts of supplies, including:

- Art supplies
- Games
- Books
- Office supplies
- Empty containers



Grants for all-electric school buses



The Illinois EPA is currently accepting applications to replace old diesel school buses with new all-electric school buses through its Driving a Cleaner Illinois grant program. Grants are available in the **Chicago Metro** and **Metro-East** areas.

To learn more and apply, visit the ILEPA's [Driving a Cleaner Illinois](#) website.

Applications are due **August 9, 2021**.

Opportunities for high school students

[Teenagers Exploring and Explaining Nature and Science \(TEENS\)](#) Applications are now open for the **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum's** TEENS summer program for **Chicago high school students** in grades 9-12. Students will "explore nature in the city, participate in hands-on scientific investigations, and learn about career paths in ecology, environmental science, and conservation" and can earn up to \$725 for participating.



[The Center for Conservation Leadership \(CCL\)](#) is a year-long program sponsored by Lake Forest Open Lands Association that combines environmental education, leadership training, and community service in an in-depth, field-based experience. It develops and empowers the next generation of conservation leaders to understand the importance of human interaction with the environment and to take responsibility for its care and preservation. CCL participants are motivated high school students from diverse backgrounds with a keen interest in the environment and a passion for the outdoors. Application deadline is **May 15**.

Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly

The April 2021 [issue](#) of the Green School Catalyst Quarterly from the Green Schools National Network explores how schools and school districts can create learning environments that nurture the social-emotional and mental health of students by taking a holistic approach to school safety to ensure safe, secure, and sustainable learning environments for all students.



Spring & summer volunteer opportunities



Get outside and make a difference with these spring and summer volunteer opportunities!

Join the [Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach](#) for a beach cleanup. Come together with members of your community and thousands of Great Lakes lovers to help keep our beaches beautiful. Sign up for a cleanup near you, then show up at the beach, clean up, make friends, and have fun.

[Chicagoland Environmental Network](#) summer volunteer opportunities for families and teens. Check out the long list of opportunities to get outside and make a difference all over Chicagoland.

Volunteer and take action for animals on a [Shedd Aquarium Action Day](#) to restore and protect nearby beaches, waterways, and forest preserves by participating in litter clean ups, coastal and woodland habitat restoration, and river planting.

Summer Institutes

CELFF supports teachers to ensure that our next generation is prepared with the systems-thinking mindset they'll need to solve the world's most pressing challenges. Two different [CELFF Summer Institutes](#)



offer standards-aligned, credit-based virtual programming, geared towards a national audience of K-12 educators. This collaborative virtual experience will harness the imagination and energy of the educator community and will allow teachers to reflect on what matters most to them and redefine what sustainability means and looks like as a result of the pandemic.

This institute is interactive, in-depth, and self-paced and is designed for individual or group participation that connect instructional practices to real-world applications and learning experiences.

Learn more about the Summer Institutes at open house sessions on May 26 and June 9.

Events

[Virtual Author Talk: *Nature's Best Hope* with Doug Tallamy](#)

May 20, 6 pm

Park Ridge Library presents University of Delaware entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy for a discussion about the science behind his book *Nature's Best Hope*, in which he argues that we can all be conservationists by planting wildlife habitats in our backyards. Co-sponsored by Go Green Park Ridge and the Park Ridge Garden Club.

[Earth Action Hub](#)

May 21-23

The Foundation for Environmental Education presents this free 3-day virtual event dedicated to engaging everyone, youth and adults, in learning about and promoting sustainable solutions to climate change through action planning sessions, networking, an exhibit hall, and more.

[Ditching Disposables: A Toolkit for Healthier Foodware in K-12 Schools](#)

May 25, 11 am CST

The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) is hosting a webinar about their new toolkit designed to help schools transition to greener, healthier foodware. CEH's toolkit includes a step-by-step guide on how to flip a school/district from single-use disposables to reusables, the science behind disposable and reusable materials, and how to safely incorporate reusables in school reopenings after COVID-19, and more. Learn more about CEH's Single Use Foodware work [HERE](#).

[Free screening - *Microplastic Madness*](#)

June 8

In honor of World Oceans Day, Cafeteria Culture is offering a free screening of their award-winning film *Microplastic Madness*. Stay tuned for event details and watch the trailer by clicking the link above.

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



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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