



# 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](#)

## Green Locker Clean-Out Guide



The end of the school year is here and with it the opportunity for a great end-of-year project-- a Green Locker Clean-Out. With a just a little advanced planning, your school can keep mountains of materials out of landfills.

A Green Locker Clean-Out involves providing bins for students to sort their unwanted locker or desk contents into categories of Donate, Recycle, and Landfill. Donated items can be made available to other students and staff in the school or can be donated. The guide will take you through all steps of planning and implementation, providing best practices and tips along the way.

While the project may need to be adapted in accordance with your school's COVID-19 safety protocols, your school may be able find ways to make aspects of project work.

**Download SGA's Green Locker Clean-Out Guide [HERE](#).**

Learn more about SGA's Zero Waste Schools program, including more resources [HERE](#).

## Donate unwanted classroom and school supplies

Cleaning out your classroom, moving spaces, or simply have items that you don't need?

[Chicago Creative Reuse Exchange](#) (in Chicago) and [SCARCE](#) (in Addison) accept all sorts of supplies, including:

- School/office supplies

- Art supplies
- Games
- Books
- Empty containers



## Illinois Farm to School Summer Institute



The 2021 virtual institute opened on June 1 and is available through August 15. At no cost, participants can discover tools, review resources, and receive training on the topics needed to move their programming forward. Attendees will build a personalized agenda from over 100 documents and toolkits, 28 pre-recorded virtual sessions, and shared links to best practices for 18 Farm to School topics, many often overlooked by participating programs.

Please share this fantastic opportunity with child garden and feeding sites in your region! Check out a sample of farm to school training sessions [HERE](#) and click this [LINK](#) to read more.

Do you know an Illinois grower, distributor, or food hub that would like to share their information with institutional buyers? Help them build their market by sharing the Local Food Poster application for the Local Food Gallery wall [HERE](#).

## 'Implementing A Framework for Sustainability and Wellness' online seminar

The Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC), in partnership with the Illinois Green Alliance, is offering this **free online professional development seminar** on two dates for elementary and middle school teachers and administrators.

**Wednesday, June 9, 4 pm-5:30 pm , or  
Saturday, June 12, 10 am-11:30 am**

Learn to:

- connect classroom units and practices to global topics,
- ensure your building operations reflect your sustainable mission and vision, and
- provide wellness instruction to all students in addition to a typical PE program.

Learn more and register [HERE](#).



## 'Microplastic Madness' streaming for free June 5-9

In honor of World Oceans Day, Cafeteria Culture is offering a special free streaming opportunity of their award-winning film **'Microplastic**



**'Madness'** now through June 9.

'Microplastic Madness' is the story of 56 fifth graders from Red Hook, Brooklyn -- living on the frontline of the climate crisis -- whose actions on plastic pollution morph into extraordinary leadership and scalable victories. Created to inspire kids, teachers, and policy makers alike, this is the spark needed to grow a youth-led Plastic Free Future movement in schools

everywhere.

Watch the trailer and find the link to view the entire film [HERE](#).

## 'Beyond Plastic Pollution' online class

Registration is now open for the fall session of [Beyond Plastic Pollution](#), an online environmental policy class offered by Bennington College and taught by Judith Enck, founder and president of Beyond Plastics.

The class focuses on "the systemic reasons why millions of tons of plastics enter the ocean each year...how plastic pollution is a climate change issue; how the plastics industry spins the myth that we can recycle our way out of the problem; environmental justice and the health impacts of plastic production and use; alternatives to plastic; and most importantly, what you can do to address this growing problem."



The course is open to the public, **high school** age and up. Class meets every Wednesday on Zoom, Sept. 1 - Oct. 13, 2021, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The fee to audit the class is \$100; the cost is \$400 to receive credit.

## Grants and other opportunities

[World Wildlife Fund's Food Waste Warriors mini-grants and large grants](#) are now open. Two types of grants are available this year: (1) mini-grants for schools, school districts, or nonprofits; and (2) large grants for school districts, nonprofits, and for-profit organizations. The focus will be on food waste measurement and interventions; supporting underserved communities; and (for the large grants only) helping to drive more lasting food waste policy change in schools. **Applications close July 20.**

[Driving a Cleaner Illinois \(grants for all-electric school buses\)](#): 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. **Applications due August 9, 2021.**

[Teenagers Exploring and Explaining Nature and Science \(TEENS\)](#): Applications are 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.

[Check out SWANCC's updated website and resources](#)

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's updated [website](#) has lots of resources to help K-12 schools prevent waste, reuse materials, and recycle right.



SWANCC also offers (to SWANCC-member communities only):

- Presentations for students in grades 3-12
- Assistance with waste audits and training to teachers and staff
- A grant program for preK-12 schools to purchase waste reduction items
- Teaching tools to loan
- A monthly Elist for Educators

SWANCC's new video about residential curbside recycling, [Recycling Right Matters](#), highlights what materials are accepted, where to take items for donation, special collection programs, and more. For more information about recycling, see the Agency's [FAQs](#).

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## Summer reading recommendations



Help kids enjoy the long, lazy days of summer with some inspirational reading about nature, reducing waste, environmental activism, and more.

[Environmental Kids' Books for 2021](#) (Publisher's Weekly)

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

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

[Gorilla Gardener: How to Help Nature Take over the World](#)

[Let's Eat! Sustainable Food for a Hungry Planet](#)

[Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet](#)

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## Events

### [Composting Options for Everyone](#)

**June 16, 7-8:30 pm**

Join this webinar hosted by Go Green Wilmette to "learn from local experts on the many ways to compost food scraps and yard waste to keep these materials out of landfills. Hear from experienced composters on how they got started and tips for success. And if you live in an apartment or condo and think composting is not an option, guess again! We'll also hear from panelists in high-rise buildings on how they compost kitchen waste."

### [Community Compost Collection Series](#)

**June 26, 7 am-12 pm, Park Forest, IL**

"University of Illinois Extension in Cook County and Village of Park Forest have teamed up to keep compostables out of the landfill. Drop off your yard/garden/kitchen waste to be composted and stay for free giveaways. Accepted materials include grass clippings, leaves, landscape waste, and kitchen scraps: eggshells, vegetable skins, and stems. Help us reach our goal of collecting 5 tons of compostable material at this one-day-only event."

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



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