



# AUGUST 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.

Share the newsletter with friends, colleagues, and students interested in zero waste.

[Sign up for ZWS news](#)

## Back-to-school with less waste



School year 2022-23 is almost here! Make it a lot less wasteful with these resources from Seven Generations Ahead:

### [Zero Waste Schools Event Guide](#) **NEW!**

Make your next school event a good time for everyone, including the planet. With a little advanced planning, school picnics, sporting events, graduation parties, meetings, and more can all be accomplished with a lot less waste. Our brand new guide is loaded with ideas to help you do it.

[Turn a Wasteful Lunch into a Zero Waste Lunch flyer](#) Download and share this one-page flyer showing how to pack a zero waste lunch from home.

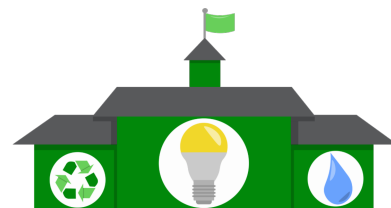
[Back to School Supplies: A Zero Waste Guide](#) Get ideas for reusing supplies, purchasing eco-friendly supplies, and how to pack a zero waste lunch. Teachers will also find helpful hints on how to promote sustainability in the classroom.

[Tips for a Healthy, Waste-Free Classroom](#) will help teachers reduce, reuse, and recycle in your classroom, as well as create a clean and healthy classroom environment.

## Illinois Green Schools Project

Registration for the [2022-23 Illinois Green Schools Project](#) is now open. The Illinois Green Alliance's Green Schools Project is a challenge for K-12 schools to devise and implement creative no- to low-cost energy, water and waste initiatives and sustainable practices. This year's optional theme is "Path to Zero."

Learn more about the program by joining an [online information session](#) for educators, school staff, and



ILLINOIS  
**GREEN SCHOOLS PROJECT**

parents on **Aug. 18, 12:00-12:30 pm.**

**School registration ends Sept. 12.** Contact Liz Wimmer at [lwimmer@illinoisgreenalliance.org](mailto:lwimmer@illinoisgreenalliance.org) with questions or for more information.

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## Nature's Farm Camp Female Teen Leadership Summit

**Oct. 8-10, Angelic Organics Learning Center, Caledonia, IL**



Applications are now open to Chicago-area female-identifying teens (ages 16-19) for [Nature's Farm Camp Female Teen Leadership Summit](#). This 2.5 day summit is for teens who care about food and want to make a positive impact on their communities.

Youth will receive a \$300 payment for participating. All meals and lodging will be provided at no cost. Nature's

Farm Camp HIGHLY encourages BIPOC and/or undocumented youth and youth with disabilities to apply. **Application deadline: Sept. 4.**

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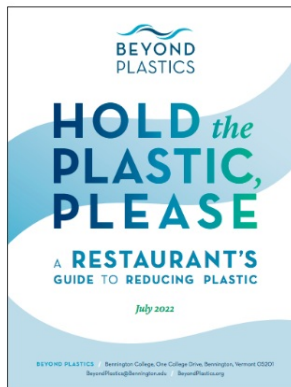
## Start a green team this year

A school green team or club can be the center of a school's environmental efforts and the start of a new school year can be the ideal time to form one. Here are a few resources on how to get a green team going:

- [Green Clubs Resource Guide for Middle and High School Environmental-Focused Clubs](#) - The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
- [Steps to Organizing an Ecology Club](#) - Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)
- [Tips for Starting Your Green Team](#) - Green Schools Initiative

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## Hold the Plastic, Please - A Restaurant's Guide to Reducing Plastic



Beyond Plastics has just released [Hold The Plastic, Please - A Restaurant's Guide To Reducing Plastic](#), a comprehensive guide offering practical advice, tools, and funding sources to reduce plastic use in eating establishments. While created with restaurants in mind, many of the resources are also applicable to schools. Find:

- How to conduct a plastic audit
- Savings and foodware calculators
- Education and how to get staff buy-in
- Benefits of switching to reusable foodware
- Recommendations for more sustainable disposables
- Case studies

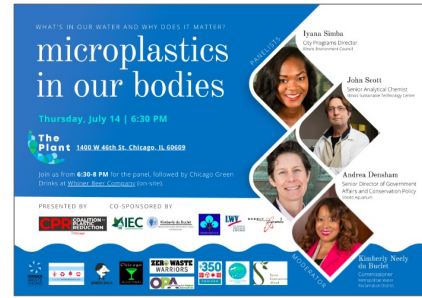
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## Microplastics panel was recorded!

In case you missed it...here is the [recording](#) of the lively panel discussion, ***Microplastics in Our Bodies: What's in Our Water and Why Does it Matter?***

The panel featured:

- **Iyana Simba**, City Programs Director, Illinois Environmental Council
- **John Scott**, Senior Analytical Chemist, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
- **Andrea Densham**, Senior Director of Government Affairs and Conservation Policy, Shedd Aquarium
- **Dean Alonistiotis**, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Kim du Buclet, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (moderator)



The panel discussion was hosted by Coalition for Plastic Reduction-Chicago and its members, including Seven Generations Ahead, and took place at The Plant on July 14.

## Grants and other opportunities

**Beyond Plastic Pollution online class**: This course, taught by Judith Enck, delves into almost every aspect of plastic pollution and what we can do to address it. Registration will open soon for the fall session. **Fill out this form** to let them know you're interested and they'll follow up once registration opens. The course is **open to the public, high school age and up**. Class meets every Wednesday on Zoom, Sept. 7 - Oct. 19, 2022, 7-9 pm EST. The fee to audit the class is \$100; the cost is \$400 to receive credit.

### **Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom offers two grants:**

- Teacher Project Grants provide up to \$300 to PreK-12th grade teachers for projects that promote agricultural literacy in the classroom. **Deadline: Oct. 14.**
- Teacher Book Grants provide up to \$250 in books from a pre-selected list of titles to help teachers integrate agriculture into their curricula. **Deadline: Oct. 14.**

**Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant**: Applicants must use native Illinois plants in their wildlife habitat area and be prepared to maintain and commit resources to the project for at least five years. Projects need to be implemented on school grounds or another public place. **Deadline: Nov. 30.**

**Whole Kids Foundation Salad Bar Grant** Any district or independent school participating in the National School Lunch Program can apply. The grant program donates salad bars to U.S. schools to give kids daily access to fresh fruits and vegetables. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**

## Events

### **Chicago Conservation Corps Sustainability Leadership Training Series**

**Online orientations: Aug. 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, or 17**

**Online Course: Sept. 7 - Oct. 26**

Learn about the unique urban environmental challenges Chicago confronts from community and environmental leaders and lead a sustainability service project in your community with support and resources from the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. To participate in the training course, you must be an adult Chicago resident, attend an orientation, and submit an application.

### **Needs Assessment Meetings with PreK-12 Educators for Advancing Equitable Environmental Literacy**

**Aug. 15, 16, 23, 25**

The Environmental Education Association of Illinois is working to advance equitable environmental literacy and the implementation of environmental education in classrooms, and they need your feedback. These sessions will enable teachers, administrators and school support staff to share their vision of how to better implement environmental education in Illinois schools. *Stipends available.*

### **Teachers Back2School Supply Rx-Travaganza**

**Aug. 19 - 21, Creative Chicago Reuse Exchange, 2124 W 82nd Pl, Chicago**

Calling all Chicago teachers! Gather supplies for your classroom at this 3-day event. Ticket prices are \$20

for the first day (the best selection!), \$10 for the second day, and whatever you're able to pay for the third day. You get your first box of supplies free when you purchase a ticket.

### [USDA Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair](#)

**Sept. 14, 9 am – 1 pm CST**

This virtual fair will showcase some of the latest food loss and waste mitigation technologies, programs, and innovations. This free event is perfect for businesses, nonprofits, researchers, and food sector leaders and individuals who want to know about the latest developments in reducing food loss and waste.

### [September Adopt-a-Beach: A Great Lakes Day of Action](#)

**Sept. 17**

Join thousands of Adopt-a-Beach volunteers to clean and celebrate Great Lakes shorelines as part of the [International Coastal Cleanup](#).

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