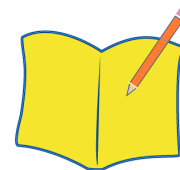


## AUGUST NEWSLETTER



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](#)

### Make back-to-school zero waste with our ZWS guides!



School year 2024-25 is almost here! A new school year is an excellent time to make decisions and develop systems that can reduce waste throughout the rest of the year. Preventing waste can happen at every level of the school community- from getting the right supplies to planning intentional community events. Get your school on a path to zero waste with these resources from [Seven Generations Ahead](#), and contact [zerowaste@sevendgenerationsahead.org](mailto:zerowaste@sevendgenerationsahead.org) with any questions!

**[Back-to-School Supplies: A Zero Waste Guide:](#)** Get ideas for reusing supplies and purchasing more sustainable supplies. Teachers can also find helpful hints on how to promote sustainability in the classroom.

**[Zero Waste Lunch Flyer:](#)** Download and share this one-pager showing how to reduce single-use plastics by packing a zero-waste lunch from home.

**[Zero Waste Schools Event Guide:](#)** Make all of your school events this year a good time for everyone, including the planet. With a little advanced planning, school picnics, sporting events, graduation parties, meetings, and more can create much less waste. Our updated guide is loaded with ideas to help you do it.

In addition to SGA's resources, [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center's Back-to-School Guide](#) has more tips for starting the school year with less waste.

**Chicago Cub's Education Day:**

# The Great Apple Crunch with Stade's Farm!

Sept. 18

Calling all Chicagoland K-5 teachers! Start off the 2024-25 school year with a class trip to Wrigley Field Wednesday, September 18. Celebrate the start up of Illinois orchard season with fun and educational programming before the Cubs take on the Oakland Athletics.



During the pregame programming students will listen in as local orchard grower, Vern Stade, shares education about how apples grow at his McHenry, IL orchard. Students will also have the opportunity to compost apple cores and make this a zero waste event. Join us to Crunch! into local apples and discover how tasty a fresh, local apple can be.

Register [HERE](#).

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## Updated! CEH's Ditching Disposables Toolkit



The [Center for Environmental Health \(CEH\)](#) has recently updated their *Ditching Disposables Toolkit: A Toolkit for Healthier Foodware in K-12 Schools*. Disposables, or single-use products, are a significant contributor to waste in schools. Single-use products, specifically foodware items, often contain harmful chemicals such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs), bisphenol A (BPAs), and styrene. Eliminating disposables in school cafeterias not only reduces waste but also reduces students' exposure to harmful chemicals.

The [Ditching Disposables Toolkit](#) provides schools a clear and concise path to help them transition to reusable foodware and is based on CEH's direct experience implementing reusables in school cafeterias. The compilation of case studies, step-by-step guidance, and resources provide schools everything they need to know about making the switch to healthier and environmentally preferable foodware.

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## National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) along with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) agreed to reduce wasted food by 50% by 2030. Since food waste in landfills contributes to 58% of methane emissions, it is imperative to actively divert food from landfills and towards better uses such as food rescue and composting.

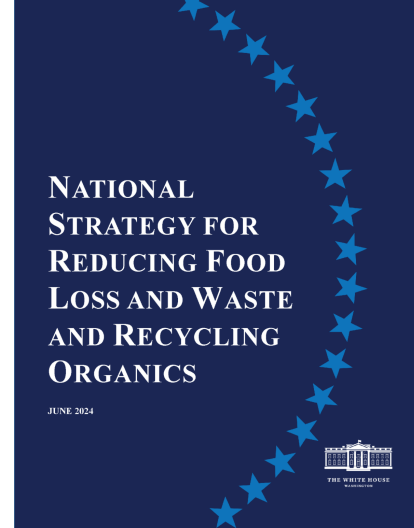
The Biden-Harris Administration's National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss, Waste, and Recycling Organics outlines steps to achieve EPA and USDA goals. It includes prevention and recycling strategies, emphasizing efficient use of raw materials, recovery of discarded materials, and upcycling food to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. These steps focus on building a circular economy to increase sustainability within the United States.

The four main objectives in the strategy are:

- Objective 1: Prevent food loss.
- Objective 2: Prevent food waste.
- Objective 3: Increase the recycling rate for all organic waste.
- Objective 4: Support policies that incentivize and encourage the prevention of food loss and waste and organics recycling.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to download the full report.



## Beyond Plastic Pollution online class



### BEYOND PLASTICS

Registration is now open for Judith Enck's [Plastic Pollution class](#). Judith Enck, founder and president of Beyond Plastics, will be teaching her online Beyond Plastics class through Bennington College once again in September. This virtual class is open to all high school and college students

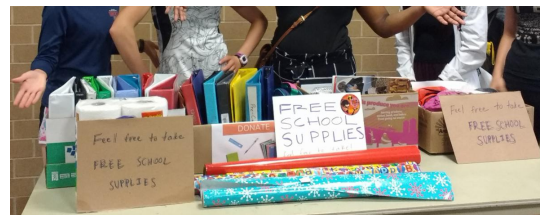
who want to take the class for academic credit, as well as individuals of any age who are interested in learning about plastic pollution and what we can do to address the growing problem.

**The class will meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 8 pm cst, Sept. 4 - Oct. 16.** The cost is \$100 to audit or \$400 for college credit.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

## Resources for teacher supplies

Back-to-school time can be costly for teachers and can also lead to a lot of waste. These organizations help get teachers the supplies they need at little or no cost while keeping perfectly good materials out of the landfill.



- [The Waste Shed-Chicago and Evanston](#) sells used art and classroom supplies in good condition. They offer a 25% discount for educators that provide a school ID. They also provide a "Free to Teachers" section that is also available to all educators.
- [SCARCE](#) focuses on reducing and reusing and offers classroom resources to teachers in need. For \$5, teachers can get a box of school supplies.
- [Greener Good](#) is an organization that sells reclaimed and reusable materials for crafters, educators, and artists at a low cost, as well as hosts creative reuse workshops.

## Grants and other opportunities

**SWANCC Waste Reduction Grant** The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is allocating funds to SWANCC member schools to assist in purchasing materials that promote the education and benefits of waste prevention. Grant coordinators may apply and request up to \$500 to expand their reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting initiatives.

**Plastic Free Restaurants** Plastic Free Restaurants is dedicated to eliminating single-use petroleum-based products in everyday foodware. Plastic products are not only harmful to the environment but also human health. Their subsidy program is available to schools, non-profits, restaurants, and other for-profit entities to purchase safe reusable foodware products. Apply for a subsidy [HERE](#).

**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.**

**Chef Ann Foundation: Get Schools Cooking** (GSC) This program is an intensive 3-year assessment and strategic planning opportunity that provides public K-12 schools with the operational knowledge to transition from a heat-&-serve to a scratch-cooking operational model. **Applications due Sept. 30.**

**Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Book/Project Grant** Educators have the chance to receive funding (\$250-\$300) for books and projects that focus on educating students on the importance of sustainable agriculture. **Applications due Oct. 18.**

**Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant** Earn up to \$2000 for the development of wildlife habitat at your school! Projects must emphasize student/youth involvement with planning, development and maintenance and increase the educational and wildlife habitat values of the site. **Applications due Nov. 30.**

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## Events

### **Plant Chicago: August Farmers Market + Back to School Event!**

**Aug. 17, 11 - 3 pm, 4459 S. Marshfield Ave, Chicago, IL**

Join Plant Chicago for their farmer's market and a back to school event that will provide food and supplies to students.

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

**Aug. 23 - 25, 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 \$30 for Friday, \$20 for Saturday, and \$10 for Sunday.

### **Planning for Climate Resilience Summit**

**Sept. 10 - 11, Austin, TX**

Join the Center for Green Schools for this free interactive training that will connect K-12 school district decision makers with their peers, experts, and key resources to develop, fund, and implement climate resiliency plans and improvements.

### **Cooking with Kids in the School Garden**

**Sept. 19, 6 pm**

Join KidsGardening for a webinar exploring the exciting world of nutrition right from your school garden.

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



**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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