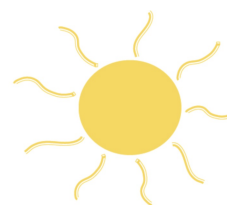


JUNE NEWSLETTER



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.

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

[Sign up for ZWS news](#)

Preparation pays off at Kilmer Elementary



[Joyce Kilmer Elementary School](#) is the latest Chicago Public School to launch a zero waste program in partnership with [Seven Generations Ahead \(SGA\)](#). On May 13th, the SGA [Zero Waste Schools \(ZWS\)](#) team, students, staff, and parent volunteers joined forces to implement the program and ensure that launch day went smoothly. By committing to the program, Kilmer Elementary has taken a significant step in their zero waste journey and teaching kids life-long sustainability habits.

With 748 students and a crowded lunchroom, the school needed two sorting stations that would allow students to enter at both ends. Despite the additional challenge of the tight space, the staff were enthusiastic and set a positive tone for everyone involved.

"The staff was very flexible and interested in making the program work," said Becky Brodsky, Senior Program Manager for the ZWS program.

Kilmer students were also engaged and well-prepared for launch day. They knew to read the signs carefully and ask questions as they sorted their waste. There were also many trained student volunteers on hand to assist, with even more students eager to participate.

Read the full article [HERE](#).

Save the Date for the Chicago Youth Climate Justice
Summit!



We are excited to announce Chicago's inaugural Youth Climate Justice Summit! For youth by youth! Hosted by [It's Our Future](#) a program of Seven Generations Ahead in partnership with [Accelerate Climate Solutions](#), and [The Climate Reality Project](#).

What: A youth-led, day-long gathering focused on climate justice and solutions.

Why: To empower, connect and educate high school students from a variety of backgrounds to take meaningful action in their schools and communities and foster community among young activists through fun, creative, hands-on activities. Climate Action Planning will be central to

the summit and youth will leave with actionable next steps.

Who: Chicago area high school students! Registration will be 5 students + 1-2 teachers from each school, though individuals are welcome to join as well. The conference will be created and led by youth with adult support. All are working to make sure it's engaging, relevant and accessible to a diverse audience.

Interested students can fill out this [FORM](#).

Interested schools/teachers/administrators can fill out this [FORM](#).

Click [HERE](#), if you or your organization is interested in sponsoring the event.

Celebrating Evanston/Skokie School District 65's Sustainability Plan

Evanston/Skokie School District 65 in Evanston, IL is celebrating and sharing their first D65 Sustainability Plan as a holistic, district-wide, enduring commitment to addressing climate change. D65 is committing to transforming their policies, practices and daily actions to ensure a healthy and just future for students, staff, families and generations to come.



D65 Sustainability Plan: Sustainable Schools, Healthy and Just Futures includes goals centered around the following four categories:

1. Teaching and Learning
2. Healthy Environments
3. Sustainable Operations
4. Transportation and Mobility

The D65 Sustainability Plan plan is the product of six months of dedicated work from a working group of 20+ staff, students, caregivers, Evanston and Skokie staff, and multiple local community based organizations who worked collaboratively and tirelessly to formulate this plan.

Looking forward: D65 commits to annual reporting of progress towards the Sustainability Goals by creating a public dashboard in addition to periodic reviews and plan updates. To learn more, visit [D65 Sustainability webpage](#).

Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is the global movement that helps

millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution. Here are just a few of the many ways you can start going plastic-free.

- Take the [Plastic Free July Challenge](#).
- Start planning ways to transition your school from single-use plastics to reusable food ware with the Center for Environmental Health's [Ditching Disposables: A Toolkit for Healthier Foodware in K-12 Schools](#).
- Connect with [Plastic Free Restaurants](#) to learn more about their cash subsidy to help schools switch from single-use plastics to reusable.
- Get more ideas for reducing single-use plastic in every area of your life with the [Plastic Free Eco-Challenge](#).
- Find [events](#) near you to engage with your community in your efforts to reduce plastic use.
- Read [case studies](#) about schools' efforts to reduce their plastic waste.
- Watch inspiring [videos](#) about plastic waste solutions.



Below are some ideas to reduce your daily plastic use:

- Use glass or stainless steel containers for storing food and bring your own containers for leftovers when you eat out.
- Bring reusable bags with you wherever you go to avoid plastic bags and extra fees.
- Start using food wrap items that can be reused such as beeswax wraps or food-grade silicone covers.

Green teams resource hub

Are you a school district looking to participate in sustainability initiatives? While there are many ways to become greener, waste reduction can be one of the most effective actions a school can take. [Go Green Initiative](#) has created a [Waste Resource Hub](#) to help schools tackle their waste. The site includes resources and inspiration for waste reduction in your school district, including how to separate recycling and organics in all areas of campus, recovering edible food, and measuring waste diversion.



Climate Action Resources



Check out the Institute for Local Self-Reliance's [compost infographics](#)!



[Kiss the Ground](#), a non-profit supporting healthy soils and

These graphics come from a national nonprofit organization working to strengthen local economies, and redirect waste into local recycling, composting, and reuse industries. It is reprinted here with permission. These resources are also available in Spanish.

regenerative agriculture, has released new videos on YouTube and Netflix to promote education around healthy soil and compost. ["The Soil Story"](#) and ["The Compost Story"](#) educate viewers about the importance of healthy soil and how compost contributes to a better planet.

Grants and other opportunities

[Youth Outdoor Equity Leadership Fund](#) The Children & Nature Network invites young leaders in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada between the ages of 16 and 30 to request up to \$500 to grow professionally as a leader in the movement or to implement projects that create change in equitable access to nature, community health, well being, and justice.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

[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](#).

[Summer Adventures with the Lake County Forest Preserves](#) Hands-on nature and history education programs for children and teenagers ages 4–16. Programs range from consecutive 3-day and 5-day options to programs you can experience with your child. Program prices vary. Partial scholarships are available in the case of financial hardship.

[The Bulk Milk](#) granting program, a project of the [Chef Ann Foundation](#), supports school districts with the transition from conventional milk served in individual bottles/cartons to bulk milk dispensers with reusable tumblers. **Applications due June 26.**

[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. **Apply by Dec. 3.**

Events

[Learn about Solar at SCARCE](#)

June 25, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Join SCARCE and STEP-UP Solar for an interactive solar energy education training this June! During the workshop teachers will participate in hands-on STEM activities exploring energy, electricity, and solar power. We will also learn more about solar in Illinois.

[Sustainable Food Institute of America: Summer Training](#)

July 7 - 10, Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL

The Sustainable Food Institute of America is offering a 4-day training to equip Illinois school food service staff with the skills for scratch cooking through hands-on intensive training utilizing local foods. Food service staff and cooks will benefit most from attending this training. Limited spaces are available.

[Teach Climate Network Summer Institute](#)

July 14 - 17

Join the Summer Institute for a virtual two-day conference, plus one regional cohort day focused on climate change education. This conference is where educators are celebrated and their roles as community change makers are valued.

[SWANCC - Talking Trash: What Goes Where](#)

July 15, 10 - 11:30 am, 77 Hinz Road, Wheeling

Members of SWANCC can attend a presentation and discover what you didn't know about the 3R's. An introduction to the the new, digital, Recycle Coach resource will also be included in the presentation.

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