

Chicago Public Schools GREEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS September 2009

As your school begins or continues its 2009-2010 school year, check out these green opportunities:

CPS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS



Recycling

Is your school getting \$500 in office supply gift cards each semester? If not, you are missing out on incentive **Recycling Reward\$** that go to all schools meeting or exceeding recycling targets. Your school should be recycling paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, and even clean tin cans from the kitchen. We all know recycling saves energy, reduces pollution, and helps keep valuable resources out of landfills; it also earns funds for your school. Check your weekly recycling scores at www.cps.edu on your school's profile, under the Scorecard tab, then be among the winners and get gift cards. Spring 2009 Rewards winners will receive their gift cards by mail shortly.

CPS is expanding recycling to cooking kitchens, is your school ready? For a limited time, schools can sign up to receive free kitchen recycling containers and staff training to launch recycling of food containers. Please contact recycling@cps.k12.il.us by September 30, 2009 to get started.

Paper Waste Busters: Winners

CPS challenges schools to become Paper Waste Busters to help reduce paper use and buy paper with at least 35% recycled content in it. Schools competed for awards in the 2008-09 school year for meeting these goals. The winners are (drum roll please):

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 100% Recycled Content Paper: | Dubois, Hale, Haugan, and Rogers |
| Greatest % Reduction in Paper: | Clemente and Langston Hughes |
| Lowest Paper Purchase per Student: | Crane and Mather |

Winners will receive a \$500 Office Depot gift card. These winners excelled in more than one area (i.e., used less AND bought recycled) and schools with no paper purchase records did not qualify. Congratulations, winners!

Love Food Hate Waste

Love Food Hate Waste teaches school denizens and visitors about all types of conservation. Chartwell's Thompson, CPS Food Service vendor, believes we all can make a difference regarding conservation. Each school year there will be ten monthly campaigns that teach our students about timely topics such as energy and water conservation, recycling, food science and so much more. Each participating school will receive fun, age-appropriate student activities that correspond with the monthly environmental action plan. Schools will also receive a colorful presentation board for the lobby highlighting the current menu, nutrition component and the environmental action for the month. To get involved, contact Robin Garcia at 773.722.4964.



Transit Benefits

Did you know you can save *nearly 40 percent* on commuting costs with CPS' employee Transit Benefits program? Enroll to have transit payments deducted from your paycheck monthly before taxes. It's easy and flexible; use the attached forms or contact Payroll Department at 773-553-2820 to enroll.

EDUCATION

Composting

Composting takes food waste and turns it into rich soil—instead of sending it to a landfill. Check out these University of Illinois Extension composting workshops:

Teacher Training—\$50 for 60-90 Minutes

Get green and train your whole staff about the benefits of recycling food and garden waste. Learn how to keep a worm bin in your classroom or compost on school grounds, get materials to maintain the bins, and learn fun classroom activities to tie composting into your Science or Math curriculum standards.

Classroom Vermiculture Session—\$75 for 60 minutes

Extension staff and volunteers join your classroom to talk to students about worm anatomy, eco-function and diet. Your class will build their own worm bin (worms, bin and all materials provided), and receive the tools to maintain it all school year. Students will be able to recycle their food scraps, and after 4-6 months, use the resulting compost in planting projects (separate activity). Vermiculture activities meet many CMSI Science standards in almost every grade except 6th. For information and to request a class, contact kweinans@illinois.edu or 773-233-0476.



Energy Bikes for the Classroom

Illinois Energy Bikes bring energy efficiency—and energy waste—to life through fun pedal power. Cyclists generate power on the stationary Energy Bike that runs a variety of electrical devices and light bulbs attached to a display board. Since more watts take more pedal power, the cyclist feels his or her energy being transformed into electricity (and gets a little workout). Two Chicago-based bikes are available for teachers and others for a \$50 usage fee. The borrower is responsible for picking up and dropping off the bike and supplies box (40" x 27" x 16"). Energy Bike is a program of the State Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. To reserve an Energy Bike for your next energy-related class or event, contact:

- Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) – 645 N Michigan Ave, Suite 990 – (312)784-7261 or jpeters@mwalliance.org
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum – 2430 North Cannon Drive – (773)755-5100 Ext. 5022 or lblanchard@naturemuseum.org

Working Bikes Cooperative can also help teachers build bike machines of their own for classroom experiments and exploration (as seen at LabFest 2009). Contact: leeravenscroft@yahoo.com for information.

Alliance for Climate Education: Scholarships and Service Learning

ACE: The Alliance for Climate Education visits high schools (at no cost) to deliver exciting science-based multi-media presentations on climate education. Students and teachers love our presentation—check out the latest buzz [here](#). Along with a cool presentation, we get into tangible solutions to fight global climate change. We also build on education to engage and empower students to take action via **grant and scholarship** opportunities. Our presentation and follow-up procedures align well with the Learning Standards established by the Illinois Board of Education. Our fall schedule is filling up fast and we want to make sure your high school is included in this dynamic new program....Contact 312-618-5626 or annielaurie.cadmus@climateeducation.org to schedule a presentation, or visit www.climateeducation.org.

COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Carbon Day: September 15

Take action on September 15th to *Play A Part* in helping to lower your carbon emissions! Students of all ages can learn through interactive demonstrations on how to recycle, compost, plant-a-tree, and garden! Organizations leading demonstrations include City Farm Chicago, Illinois Solar and Energy Association, Illinois Arborist Association, and Midwest Renewable Energy Association. Students will learn about renewable energy such as wind and solar and see electric cars of the future! This is a one day, fun packed festival to educate individuals on how to live a more "green lifestyle." There will be eco-craft making for kids, face painting, tree climbing for kids (or adults), family friendly live music all day, extreme hula-hoop instructors, and a beautiful walk-through zen garden made out of recycled items and earths'

treasures! Carbon Day invites all students to venture out to the Carbon Day Holiday Festival anytime between 10am-8pm at Lincoln Park, Grove 5 (Clark & Armitage) for an eco-blast of fun and fiction! For more information, contact BraeH@carboday.com, 309.333.4858, and visit www.CarbonDay.com.

International Walk and Roll to School Day: October 7

Help get Illinois children walking and rolling to school on International Walk to School Day October 7th, 2009. Each October, millions of students across the globe walk, bike, skateboard and roll to school to celebrate this event. Sign up now and engage your school in walking and biking to increase children's health, improve air quality and the environment, and create safer routes in the neighborhood. The event reminds parents and children of the simple joy of walking or biking to school. Go to www.WalkToSchool.org to register your school today. All registrants receive access to downloadable program materials, a chance to win free prizes for your school, and a weekly e-newsletter with tips for holding a great Walk to School Day event.

Walk Across Illinois Mileage Challenge

After Walk and Roll to School Day, the Walk across Illinois Mileage Challenge is a perfect way to keep momentum going. The Challenge is a free, customizable, online program for school children that walk, cycle or roll to school. Students earn Mileage Challenge miles for their real active transportation commute miles. They use those miles to track their progress on virtual historic Illinois routes including the Underground Railroad, Cherokee Trail of Tears, Lincoln Highway and See No Borders. Schools can tailor the program to meet their needs. The Challenge can range from 95 to 230 miles, eight weeks or as long as 20 weeks, and teams can register as a classroom or an entire school. Join the Challenge at www.walkacrossillinois.org.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Green Team Grants

Are you ready to start composting, reduce your school's carbon emissions, implement a walk/ride to school strategy, expand recycling, or explore how to save energy—if only you had a budget for materials and other expenses? CPS' Service Learning Initiative offers \$750 mini-grants to support a new green strategy at your school. Any CPS school is eligible to apply; applicants should have a well-crafted plan that gets results, and engage students as team leaders. Please contact jjschmidt@cps.k12.il.us to sign up for an upcoming application form.

Start an Urban Orchard with Fruit Tree 101

Fruit Tree 101 brings fruit tree orchards to schoolyards so students can improve the quality of the air and water while creating a source of healthy nutrition for decades. Schoolyard fruit orchards help the environment, and they give teachers the opportunity to hold class outside when it's time for science lessons. In Fruit Tree 101, students of all grades participate in an interactive curriculum, teaching the importance of trees for the environment and fruit in the diet—culminating in group tree planting at your school that empowers the next generation of environmental stewards. CPS schools InterAmerican Magnet (pictured), Hayt, and IIT-Perpectives have mini-orchards from this program. Last year alone, the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation planted edible schoolyard orchards at 30 public schools. To learn more and apply for trees for your school, please visit www.ftpf.org.



Climate Community Citizenship Awards

The Climate Community Citizenship Awards System makes \$25 cash awards to members for efforts to combat climate change. They are looking for interesting projects by students, teachers, parents who are trying to make a difference. The Climate Community is a website designed to provide macro level discussion on climate change for students and teachers and to provide micro level rewards to students or

other young people working to help. Please contact dan@theclimatecommunity.com or visit www.theclimatecommunity.com.

OTHER RESOURCES

Your CPS Environmental Scorecard

Now that you've read about these programs to reduce CPS school's impact on the environment, how is *your school* doing? The School Environmental Scorecard FY09 (online later this week), helps principals and schools see their accomplishments in three priority areas: energy use, recycling, and Paper Waste Busters. See your school data and learn more at www.cps.edu, under Special Initiates, or go directly to www.cps.edu/About_CPS/Special_initiatives/Pages/CPS_EnvironmentalActionPlan.aspx.

CPS School Environmental Scorecard FY09

| Area | Unit | School Name | Energy Cost FY09 | Energy Efficiency (kWh/seat) | Recycling Score FY09 | Recycled paper per student FY08-FY09 | Recycled Content in Paper FY09 |
|------|------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 19 | 2020 | Adriana | \$ 96,633 | 82 | 75% | 118 | 32% |
| 6 | 2030 | Agassiz | \$ 48,810 | 79 | 75% | 118 | 32% |
| 1 | 0250 | Albany Park | \$ 91,273 | 80 | 120% | 104 | 10% |
| 6 | 2060 | Alcott | \$ 52,557 | 86 | 123% | 654 | 10% |
| 18 | 2710 | Aldridge | \$ 105,058 | 66 | 82% | 474 | 10% |
| 51 | 1120 | Alternative Learning | \$ 163,646 | 74 | 82% | 356 | 10% |
| 141 | 2050 | Alpert | \$ 293,550 | 85% | 84% | 648 | 10% |
| 4 | 2090 | Ames | \$ 66,039 | 88 | 82% | 812 | 10% |
| 19 | 1210 | Armstrong HS | \$ 125,126 | 87 | 84% | 648 | 10% |
| 6 | 2080 | Anderson | \$ 125,040 | 79 | 130% | 1037 | 10% |
| 99 | 3040 | Anat | \$ 55,191 | 74 | 84% | 655 | 10% |
| 9 | 2070 | Arnold | \$ 81,597 | 86 | 105% | 758 | 10% |
| 19 | 1210 | Armstrong, G. | \$ 72,880 | 85 | 78% | 218 | 35% |
| 3 | 5700 | Armstrong, L. | \$ 191,267 | 81 | 88% | 200 | 10% |
| 19 | 2100 | Ashburn | \$ 60,455 | 73 | 82% | 602 | 10% |
| 17 | 0850 | Ashe | \$ 109,538 | 89 | 91% | 648 | 11% |
| 13 | 2100 | Attucks | \$ 145,513 | 89 | 84% | 103 | 38% |
| 99 | 2110 | Auburn | \$ 139,440 | 73 | 82% | 634 | 10% |
| 6 | 2160 | Avonlea | \$ 97,387 | 72 | 142% | 748 | 10% |
| 14 | 8880 | Barringer | \$ 328,741 | 80 | 78% | 110 | 38% |
| 17 | 2130 | Avonlea Park | \$ 191,267 | 86 | 88% | 200 | 10% |
| 6 | 2160 | Avonlea | \$ 77,241 | 90 | 82% | 602 | 10% |
| 14 | 8880 | Barringer | \$ 60,455 | 73 | 82% | 602 | 10% |
| 1 | 2160 | Barry | \$ 109,538 | 89 | 91% | 648 | 11% |
| 14 | 2170 | Barton | \$ 145,513 | 89 | 84% | 103 | 38% |
| 14 | 2160 | Barr | \$ 139,440 | 73 | 82% | 634 | 10% |
| 2 | 2100 | Bateman | \$ 328,741 | 80 | 78% | 110 | 38% |
| 27 | 4920 | Beard | \$ 97,387 | 72 | 142% | 748 | 10% |
| 13 | 0950 | Beasley | \$ 328,741 | 80 | 78% | 110 | 38% |
| 99 | 2240 | Beaubien | \$ 142,018 | 80 | 78% | 110 | 38% |

Free Things

Keep in mind CPS *Free Things* to exchange unwanted items from your school or to pick up useful surplus items from elsewhere, www.helpcps.org.

Green Schools Alliance

The Green Schools Alliance (GSA) is a national network of schools guiding schools to meet climate and sustainability goals. The GSA is working to share best practices, build environmental awareness, and support leadership. The GSA identifies resources and involves the school community including students, faculty, administrators, facility staff, and parents. Schools can join the GSA at the "Climate Steward" or "Climate Champion" level. To join, please complete the Green Schools Climate Commitment located at: www.greenschoolsalliance.org/takeaction/index.html (click "Pledge for Printing").

DID YOU KNOW?

- CPS spends \$85,000,000 a year on energy, more than for textbooks and computers.
- CPS buys 20 percent of our electricity from renewable sources, and 12 of our schools have solar power on site.
- CPS computers now shut down automatically to save energy at night and on weekends (computers must be logged off first, so be sure to log off every night).
- CPS has awarded \$600,000 in Recycling Reward\$ gift cards since 2005!
- And we are closing the loop. Did you know that CPS schools buy recycled toilet paper that it meets US EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines? We encourage all schools to buy 35% or 100% recycled copy paper, too: set your Oracle favorites to buy recycled paper.
- Half of CPS schools have gardens or learning landscapes.

Green Opportunities is compiled by Chicago Public Schools, Environmental Affairs, August 2009. Inclusion in this posting does not imply CPS endorsement or express approval of the content of the programs, linked websites, or organizations listed and is for informational purposes only.