



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

D65 Climate Action Community Meeting

March 21, 2023

Agenda



- ❑ Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Marie, Beth, Sylvia)
- ❑ D65 Sustainability Update (Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator)
- ❑ End of Year Classroom and Locker Clean Out (Karen)
- ❑ 2023 Earth Month Updates (Karen / Marie)
- ❑ Tree and Native Plantings, School Gardens (Open Discussion)
- ❑ Save the Date: our next community meeting

Land Acknowledgement

We now invite everyone to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting today. Recognizing that we are on stolen land is important because it acknowledges that the present United States is a collection of territories and land purchases accumulated by genocide. We are thankful to be able to be here and have this event. We ask that everyone be conscious of their place on the native lands of North America and our role in colonialism. Remembering the history, and honoring the contributions and traditions of indigenous peoples is one step towards fighting their erasure. We pay respect to the Elders past and present and extend our recognition to their descendants.



D65 Sustainability Update

Karen Bireta
Sustainability Coordinator



Renew America's Schools Grant



Pursuing a grant with U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Renew America's Schools.

- ★ Submitted our Concept Paper submitted on January 26th.
- ★ Proposing upgrades at **7 school buildings** based on age and highest need for energy efficiency upgrades for a total **funding request of \$11,759,000**.
- ★ **We've been invited to submit a Full Application by April 21.**

NEW! Lunchroom Composting & Recycling Video



[English](#)



[Spanish](#)

According to the Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition, **Evanston/Skokie School District 65** has set a record in our We Compost program with having the most number of schools in a district participating in food scrap composting!

NEW Process - Tree and Native Planting / School Food Gardens



Good news, a new collaboration and approval process for Tree and Native Plantings on our D65 School Grounds is now available [click here](#). This also applies to any new or major renovations to School Food Gardens.

- New Tree Planting
- Planting Native Plants
- Major Renovation to School Food Garden
- New School Food Garden
- Tree Removal (including ground out stump)
- Shrub Removal

We're encouraging our school staff, families and community members to use this process to collaborate and submit requests to their principals, assistant principals and custodians. Make sure to allow time for school leader review and approval, prior to any plantings or digging.

EPL Blueberry Awards Celebration!



Thursday, March 23 7-8:30pm

Evanston Ecology Center [Register \(click here\)](#)

Join the Evanston Public Library & Ecology Center staff to see the 2022 Blueberry Award winners and also enjoy hot chocolate, an audience choice award, a bonfire, a LIVE animal encounter and more!

What is the Blueberry Award? Evanston Public Library started the Blueberry Awards in 2021 to honor the best climate and nature books each year that help kids 3 - 10 years old connect with the natural world and learn about environmental stewardship! The award is designed to help parents, teachers and nature center staff who work with kids, too! After the announcement on the 23rd, swing by the library for a display of all the books and to pick up our annual flyer.

End of School Classroom and Locker Clean Out: Positive Impact (June 2022)



14

**Participating
Buildings**

305

**Donation
Boxes**

48

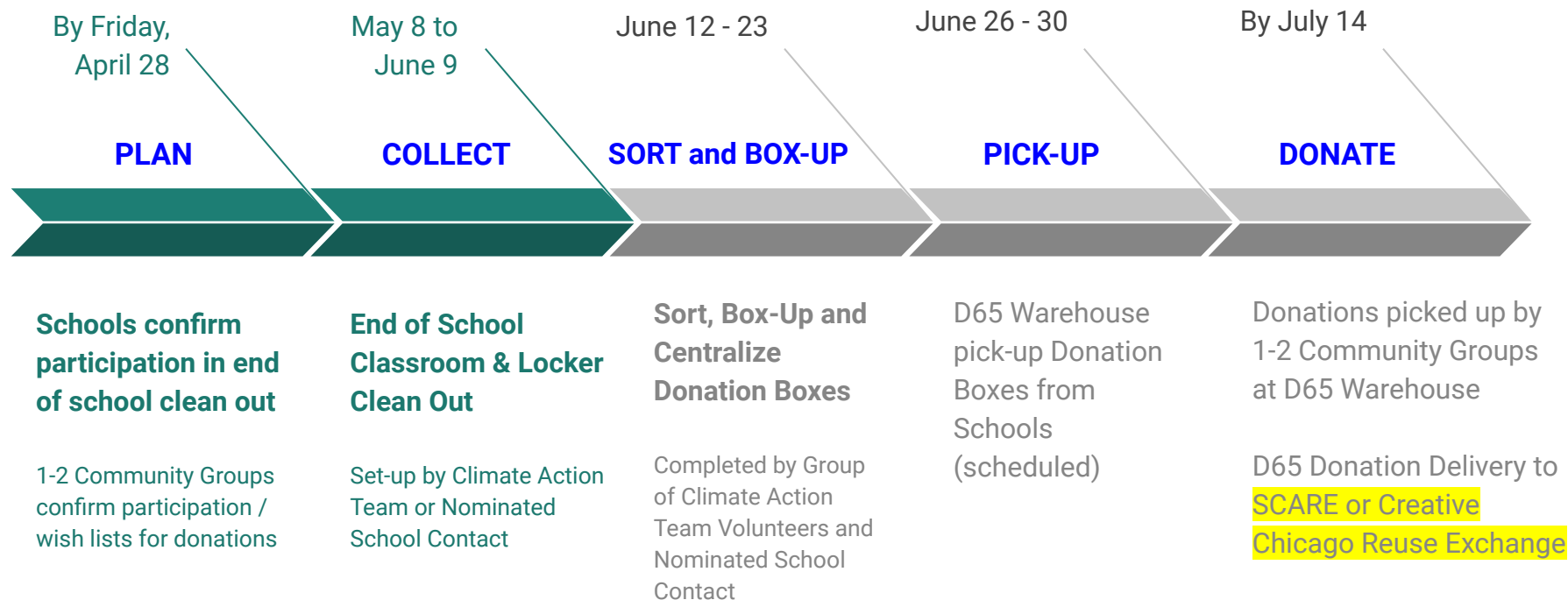
**Volunteers &
Staff Helping**

**DAWES, DEWEY, HAVEN, JEH EARLY CHILDHOOD, JEH ADMINISTRATION,
KING ARTS, KINGSLEY, LINCOLN, LINCOLNWOOD, OAKTON, ORRINGTON,
WASHINGTON, WILLARD AND D65 WAREHOUSE**

**We encouraged sharing and reuse within our schools!
Remaining items were donated to Creative Chicago Reuse
Exchange.**



2023 End of School Classroom & Locker Clean Out



2023 Earth Month Activities



Classroom Engagement

Eco Heroes and Eco Tips
google slides and handout
([English and Spanish](#))

Encourage Teachers to
share with their
classrooms daily during
Earth Week (April 17-21)



School Climate Action Project

Encourage each school to do a
[school-wide project](#) - in
development: offer categories of
[climate action project ideas](#), a school
can pick 1 to do during Earth Month
(April)

[Ecochallenge](#) for Middle Schoolers
and their Families - exploring data
privacy agreements



Community Event

10 Second Film Festival

Friday, April 21, 2023
Rotary International

[Website](#)

Tree and Native Plantings, School Gardens



Evanston Grows

[Website](#)

Mary Collins



D65 Sustainability Resources



Check out the following resources!

- ★ [D65 Sustainability Focus: 22-23 School Year](#)
- ★ [D65 Guidance for Climate Action at Schools: 22-23 School Year Sustainability Focus](#)
- ★ Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator biretak@district65.net

Growing our D65 Climate Action Community at every D65 school!

Please update or add contacts to this school year's [contact list!](#)

- ★ Climate Action Team chairs / committee members
- ★ Garden Team leads
- ★ Climate Clubs
- ★ Teachers / Staff passionate about sustainability
- ★ PTA emails
- ★ School PTA emails to Families

Hope to
see you
there!

D65 CLIMATE ACTION COMMUNITY MEETING

April 11, 2023
7 - 8pm on Zoom

Agenda:

- D65 Sustainability Update
- D65 Teacher Share by Ms Romaniuk and Ms. Patel:
Happiness Lesson
- 2023 Earth Month Updates
- 10 Second Film Festival



