

# **D65 Climate Action Community Meeting**

January 17, 2023

# Agenda



- Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Marie, Beth, Sylvia)
- D65 Sustainability Update (Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator)
- Positive Impact: LED Lighting Upgrades in Summer 2022
- 2023 Earth Month Plans
- School Supply Swap Closets
- Save the Date: our next meeting is February 7th, 7-8pm on Zoom

# 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



#### Achieved our Goal!







Lunchroom
Composting
and Recycling
in all D65
Schools



#### Lunchroom Composting & Recycling

- Bessie Rhodes
- Chute
- Dawes
- JEH Early Childhood
- Haven
- King Arts
- Kingsley
- Lincoln

- Lincolnwood
- Nichols
- Oakton
- Orrington
- Park
- Walker
- Washington
- Willard



# Composting & Recycling in our Schools



#### **Lunchroom Composting & Recycling**

- ★ JEH ECC is expanding to all classrooms
- ★ Park School is composting food during lunch and shredded paper.
- ★ Piloting student "super sorters" challenge to reduce contamination at 1 school
- ★ Early stages of exploring reduction in single use items (ex: sauce packets)

#### **Composting and Recycling in Staff Lounges**

- ★ ACTION: Encourage set-up of composting and recycling in staff lounges at your school
- ★ D65 Staff Lounge How to Guide

<u>Daily Northwestern Feature Story</u>
<u>(Jan 13 2023)</u>

<u>D65 Lunchroom Composting & Recycling Resources</u> (1-pager)

#### ComEd Carbon-Free Assessments

#### Scheduled assessments in January:

- Haven
- Chute
- Nichols

Starting with middle schools and plan to complete at all our schools, including the JEH admin building.

**Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment** 

# Healthier school environments for our future astronauts

A Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment (PSCFA) is your ticket to a happier, healthier school. With the ability to apply for grants, guidance on becoming carbon-free, and a no-cost, no-hassle process, the PSCFA allows you to significantly impact your school's future without disruption to your day-to-day schedule.

While you shape our future astronauts, we'll help you plan to get your buildings in shape for a carbon-free future. Enroll your school in ComEd's PSCEA to receive:

- Guidance on becoming carbon-free
- Instant ways to save money and reduce carbon emissions
- Details on supporting electrification (like electric buses)
- Solar energy potential of your building
- Guidance on WELL certification
- Qualification for a grant under the School Construction Law\*



#### 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.
Potentially up to \$15 million USD for a district-wide project.

- Concept Paper submission deadline, January 26th.
- If we're selected to submit a Full Application, submission deadline is April 21.

# Water Savings at Oakton



Oakton Schools washrooms have been in need of updates. Water pressure and time clocks on the urinals have created excessive amount of water being wasted.

This Fall, our D65 in-house plumber replaced the water riser pipes for the boys bathrooms and time clocks on the urinal flush valves with manual flush valves.

#### **Positive Impact:**

- Saving 280,000 gallons of water in the coming 12 months
- \$2000 cost savings by reducing water usage



### 94 New Trees Planted since 2018!





#### Evanston/Skokie School District





2h · 🕙

Did you know? Our students have planted 25 new trees on D65 school grounds this school year! A big thank you to Natural Habitat Evanston, Evanston Trees and D65 Climate Action Teams for supporting our new tree plantings. Together, we've planted 94 new trees since 2018.







Nichols Middle School students Penelope Donohue, left, and Casey Martin transport mulch to dozens of trees that surround the school at 800 Greenleaf St. They worked last week with TreeKeepers from OpenLands, a non-profit that helps protect natural spaces in metropolitan Chicago. Several organizations were also at three other schools – Dewey Elementary, Washington Elementary and King Arts – planting trees, mulching or watering, according to TreeKeeper Allison Sloan. "If we want kids to play outside, exercise and stay healthy than we have to give them the ideal conditions." (Photo by Richard Cahan)

# City Recycling Truck Art Competition



#### Zeynep B., 8th Grader at Chute

D65 Student's Artwork displayed on City of Evanston Recycling Truck!





# Stationary Recycling in D65 Schools

★ Stationary Recycling with TerraCycle: D65 How to Guide

ACTION: Encourage setting up at your school!



# D65 Sustainability Resources



#### Check out the following resources!

★ D65 Sustainability Focus: 22-23 School Year

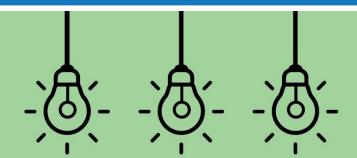
- ★ D65 Guidance for Climate Action at Schools: 22-23 School Year Sustainability Focus
- ★ Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator <u>biretak@district65.net</u>

# Growing our D65 Climate Action Community at every D65 school!

Please update or add contacts to this school year's <u>contact list!</u>

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

# Positive Impact: LED Lighting Upgrades



# LED Lighting Upgrades at 11 Schools in Summer 2022

- Improved lighting levels for Students and Teachers
- Dimmable lighting options for Teachers
- 25% reduction in electricity used at 11 schools (Fall '21 vs Fall '22)
- Saving 233 metric tons CO2, equivalent to 45 homes electricity use in one year





#### **LED Lighting Upgrades**

- Chute
- Dawes
- King Arts
- Haven
- Lincolnwood
- Nichols

- Oakton
- Park
- Walker
- Washington
- Willard

Summer 2023: complete lighting upgrades in all schools

Verano de 2023: finalización de la modernización del alumbrado en todas las escuelas

### 2023 Earth Month Plans





**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)

<u>Ecochallenge</u> for Middle Schoolers and their Families - exploring data privacy agreements



#### **Community Event**

10 Second Film Festival

Friday, April 21, 2023 Rotary International

# Volunteer Opportunity: 2023 Earth Week



Development Eco Heros classroom engagement slide deck and handout for 2023 Earth Week

- ★ Seeking 3-4 teachers and community members with expertise in environmental education
- ★ Starting point is <u>2022 Eco heroes and eco tips</u>
- ★ Focus on diversity of eco heroes to inspire our students
- ★ Materials will be translated and available in English and Spanish
- ★ Timeline: Starting January through March 2023
- ★ Lead by Genie Albina

Interested? Email Karen Bireta (biretak@district65.net) and Genie Albina (mealbina@gmail.com)

### Volunteer Opportunity: School Projects



Development School Climate Action Projects for 2023 Earth Month

- ★ Seeking 1-3 volunteers
- ★ Starting point is <u>climate action project ideas</u>
- ★ Develop guidance for our schools to complete a climate action project during Earth Month, trying to make "projects in a box" that's easy for schools to do
- ★ Timeline: Late January to March 2023
- ★ Lead by Karen Bireta

Interested? Email Karen Bireta (biretak@district65.net)

# School Supply Swap Closets

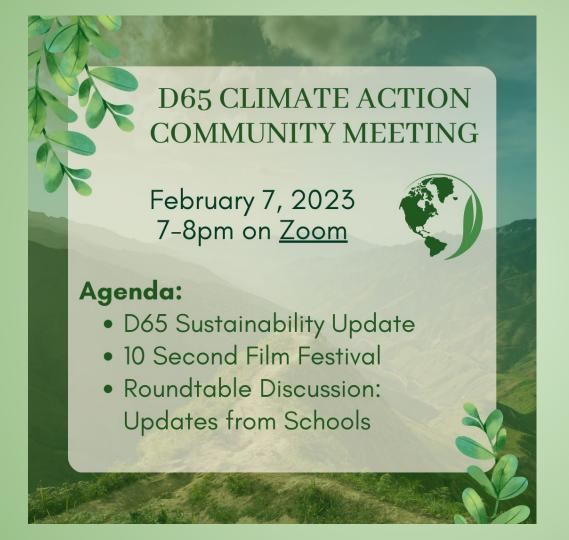


# Goal: Promote reuse of school supplies within our schools.

Looking for 1-2 schools to pilot this school year. **Interested? Contact Karen Bireta.** 

Bigger roll-out of school supply swap closets, recommend it's paired with the End of Year Classroom and Locker Clean Out.





Join Zoom Meeting:

https://district65.zoom.us/ j/5239615597

