



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

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!



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

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](#)

[Daily Northwestern Feature Story](#)
[\(Jan 13 2023\)](#)

[D65 Lunchroom Composting & Recycling Resources](#) (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 PSCFA 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



65

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. 🌳



EVANSTON ROUNDTABLE



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 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

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)

[Ecochallenge](#) 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 Heroes 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 [2022 Eco heroes and eco tips](#)
- ★ 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 [climate action project ideas](#)
- ★ 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.





D65 CLIMATE ACTION COMMUNITY MEETING

February 7, 2023
7-8pm on Zoom



Agenda:

- D65 Sustainability Update
 - 10 Second Film Festival
 - Roundtable Discussion:
Updates from Schools
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Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://district65.zoom.us/j/5239615597>

