Andres Hernandez

WATER CONSERVATION

Andres provided a water conservation workshop to a group of 17 church members using engaging teaching strategies that allowed the group to interact with each other to develop a list of water conservation tips. Each participant received an aerator and low-flow shower head and various water conservation handouts, and 2 rain barrels were raffled off. The suggestions from this workshop were used to create an attainable water conservation plan for the church that focuses on loss of water in the facility and conserving water.
Andres Hernandez
BATTERY RECYCLING

Andres worked with the high school at which he teaches, his church, and his alderman's office to set up battery recycling buckets. Five buckets were set up in various locations; he collected approximately 250 pounds in dry cell and electronic device batteries that were sent to California to Battery Solutions for proper recycling and reuse.
Andres coordinates a twice-annual Recycling Day through the 47th Ward alderman's office, focusing on electronics and other items. At this event, a carload of books was collected for donation. In addition, a plant exchange was part of the event and 11 individuals came solely to either drop off or donate plants for the exchange. They collected 62 pounds of batteries as well as more than 3000 pounds of electronics.
Andres worked with students at Von Steuben to organize locker clean up days at the end of the school year to collect, sort and organize items that are traditionally thrown away such as school supplies and clothing.
Andres Hernandez

E-WASTE RECYCLING

Andres coordinated an Earth Day electronic waste recycling event. He led a team of twelve students who organized, categorized, and weighed incoming waste from 121 residents. Waste included televisions, computers, printers, monitors and miscellaneous electronic devices that totaled 282 devices weighing approximately 5009 pounds!
Andrew Edwards

WHISTLER WOODS

WORK DAY

Andrew organized a group of 30 Chicagoans to work on a seasonal restoration project in the Whistler Woods Forest Preserve for three hours. Representatives from the Friends of the Forest Preserves provided information to the group about the forest preserves and the history of the region, and helped the volunteers as they cleared buckthorn and burned it to accelerate growth of more diverse species.
Brian Keller

DIY HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP

Brian led a DIY Home Energy Efficiency workshop. He invited apartment renters over to his apartment and provided them with hands-on lessons of how to save energy and water around their apartment and how to install the energy efficient products to help with this effort. When the evening was over, the participants received a thank-you package that contained two low-flow faucet aerators and one low-flow shower head for them to install themselves at their homes.
As part of Urban Prairie Waldorf School’s Earth Month Events, the Green Team (led by Catherine!) offered a community-wide event to discuss and demonstrate the benefits of composting. They trained attendees on the basics of composting and raffled off two outdoor composters.
Cheryl led an e-waste collection and paper shredding event at Trinity United Church of Christ with more than 80 people dropping off more than 100 items filling a large truck. Perhaps most excitingly, Cheryl had more than 20 volunteers helping with the implementation of this event and they plan to work together to lead similar events in the future due to the demand from the community.
Cheryl led an Expo in the community at which the Center for Neighborhood Technology shared research data about the flooding problem in Chatham. At the Expo, exhibitors included ideas for short-term "DO NOW" solutions to prepare your home for flooding; they also facilitated Advocacy Break Out Groups that discussed how flood victims could better connect with one another and identified opportunities to prevent flooding in the community.
Claire worked with 6th and 7th graders at St. Dorothy's school to teach them about green living over the course of two days. Claire and her team hosted workshops at which they introduced air quality issues, water conservation techniques, and green living ideas. They planted herbs, made green cleaning solutions, and signed healthy eating pledges. Claire also challenged the students to implement some of the ideas they discussed and more than half of the students had done so by the next day.
Craig Schuttenberg
HYDE PARK
COMMUNITY ENERGY
PROJECT

Craig's project focused upon encouraging residents and small businesses to implement energy-saving measures that are currently subsidized by ComEd and Peoples Gas. He tabled for 2 days at Hyde Park Produce Store and did a CFL distribution event at St. James Food Pantry, engaging 200 community members and convincing 22 to sign up for these rebate programs.
Cynthia and her team talked to Roseland area residents about hidden and in-your-face safety hazards and unhealthy conditions that are often found in homes. They shared the 7 principles of a healthy home and provided specific examples and simple solutions. Every attendee received some take home items including the EPA's "Make Your Home A Healthy Home" and a green cleaning kit with recipes.
Dana invited friends and community members to learn how to conserve energy and stay warm over the winter with weatherization tips and resources. Not only were they happy to know that they could save money, but that they were also doing good for the environment in the process. 15 people participated in this event.
Dave's project was implemented as part of Scientist For Tomorrow's (SfT) Family Science Day at the Nature Museum. Approximately 200 middle school students who participate in SfT after school programs at various community centers and schools, along with their families, spent the day at the Nature Museum rotating through a number of workshops. Dave then implemented a workshop on native plants where participants learned about benefits of native plants, designed native gardens, and left with seeds and plugs to start their own native gardens.
Deloris hosted a workshop in Riverdale that more than 30 people attended. They learned more about walking, biking, and overall pedestrian safety. Some attendees vowed to drive their cars less and walk/bike more. There was a special presentation by the Chicago Bicycle Ambassadors on biking laws, and attendees received bike gear including safety vests & helmets, horns, locks & chains, reflectors, and more.
Deloris and her team introduced the City’s Blue Carts and the pick up dates for the new residents of the Golden Gate Subdivision in Riverdale. They also identified which items could be recycled and which should not go in Blue Carts. Participants received refrigerator magnets as reminders of what to recycle. 40 people attended this event.
For Donovan's birthday party, he invited friends over to his house for a vegan potluck. Each attendee did their own research on vegan recipes and brought their contribution to his house for a fun celebration. He posted signs around the house that informed attendees about the environmental impact of foods. The group also used the dishes at his house to prevent using disposable utensils.
Elena led a skillshare to demonstrate eco friendly alternatives to conventional body care products. Using such biodegradable ingredients as brown sugar, green clay, vinegar, Dr. Bronner's soap, and essential oils, different facial masques and cleansers were made. A mouthrinse made with hydrogen peroxide and mint essential oil was made as well.
This project consisted of collecting three quite ordinary household items (plastic grocery bags, plastic bottle caps, and cardboard egg cartons), and upcycling them creatively to specific and pre-determined destinations to be used productively instead of going to the landfill. The items and locations were: plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless; plastic bottle caps into visual art; and cardboard egg cartons into educational materials. This was an easy way to get people at any point on the environmental spectrum involved in a greener, more sustainable lifestyle.
In conjunction with the 2016 Good Food Festival, Erik was able to provide insight on the newly revised City Composting Ordinance and demonstrate how to build a compliant in-vessel composting bin at a workshop to a group of farmers, food entrepreneurs, food policy stakeholders, sustainable agriculture visionaries and community members all in one place. As a result of this project, the West Humboldt Park neighborhood will have a three-bin composting system demo available as a guide for community members interested in increasing their composting endeavors. 75 people attended this workshop.
Eya Louis

ALL THINGS SUSTAINABLE

Eya led a treasure hunt around her home to educate friends and neighbors about all of the sustainable things that can be done in our residences. Aspects of the treasure hunt addressed weatherization & energy efficiency, water conservation, green cleaning, composting, and local foods. 50 people participated in this treasure hunt.
Eya and her team showed local residents the importance of installing rain barrels & compost bins in their yards. They also talked about how these things assist with neighborhood sustainability by reducing local flooding. A rain barrel and a compost bin were raffled off at the event.
Floretta Glover

BLUE BLUE THE ENVIRONMENT NEEDS YOU

Floretta led a workshop in partnership with the CAPS 6th District Senior Sub-Committee. 32 participants from the Auburn Gresham area learned through hands-on recycling demonstrations and prepared their own non-toxic household cleaners. They also learned about energy efficiency rebates through ComEd.
Gabriel educated the Winona-Foster-Carmen-Winnemac Block Club and neighboring community on how to manage stormwater through the use of rain barrels. He also showed them how to use the rain barrels and raffled off six rain barrels to attendees.
Ridge Ave is a very traveled path to Lake Shore Drive and because of this there tends to be a lot of litter and waste people toss. In an effort to clean up the environment, a handful of people picked up numerous bags of trash. Heather engaged the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce, the Alderman's office, and block clubs in the area; they all helped promote the event. 75 pounds of trash were cleared from the area.
Isabel Dieppa

WASHING YOUR FACE AND WHAT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN

Isabel hosted a booth at the Rogers Park Back-to-School Picnic and taught attendees about eco-friendly face scrubs. Many products contain microbeads, from face washes to toothpaste; in her presentation, she educated the public on what goes down our drains and taught them how to make their own facial scrubs using coconut oil and brown sugar.
West Garfield Park Community Worship Church held their annual turkey giveaway day; because of Jackie and her team, the giveaway also included weatherization kits. They taught attendees about keeping their homes and apartments warm by plugging up the holes, cracks, and crevices with the weatherization tools provided. The attendees were excited and surprised to learn how they could decrease their energy consumption and save money.
This project enlightened local residents as to how the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago treats and manages storm and waste water in the greater Chicago area. The project instructed citizens as to how be aware of flood water management in Chicago's neighborhoods, including insight on a local project being carried out by the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago's 8th ward. A local plumber also demonstrated how to use water gadgets that reduce water consumption effectively; many of these items were given away to attendees.
Jemila Burton

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY: LET’S RECYCLE

Jemila and five other volunteers picked up trash and recyclable material at the Jackson Park playground. After the litter was collected, Jemila led a recycling game so everyone could learn what could and could not be recycled; then the waste was sorted accordingly.
Jessica taught over 50 community members about weatherization, recycling, and energy efficiency at a workshop at Gary Comer Youth Center in Grand Crossing. She also provided weatherization kits to 14 community members.
Jill held a condo forum with the purpose of educating and gaining agreement from all BayPoint Condo owners to implement a building recycling program. Once approval was gained, Jill negotiated a contract with Waste Management to install a 2-yard recycling bin. After tracking results for three months (August, September, and October 2015), Jill learned that the total cost of garbage/recycling was reduced. All owner occupied units are now actively recycling and the data from this project is being shared with other condo buildings.
Jimmy led a team of volunteers in a workday committed to clearing the main path(s) of the Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail of litter and brush. The trail is on property owned by the Chicago Housing Authority and has been locked and inaccessible to the public for a long time. This project improved accessibility to the trail, particularly the portion that leads up to the canoe launch on-site. Jimmy engaged Friends of the Chicago River, Chicago Cares, and CHA and also obtained additional funding for his project through WBEZ.
John worked in association with the Ravenswood Neighbors Association (RNA) to provide a free workshop on how to make your own cheap and environmentally friendly cleaning supplies. Each of 20 attendees received a reusable tote bag, two faucet aerators, a spray bottle, and various handouts that included a guide to making your own green cleaners. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Frank Avila also gave a presentation explaining what happens to what we send down our drains.
Kathleen Boyle
VERMI-COMPOSTING

Kathleen and her project team provided education, information, answers to questions, and worms to a block club in Uptown at their annual Clean Up Green Up event. 4 worm bins were created and 16 community members were educated.
Katie Paffhouse-Bussey

ADOPT-A-BEACH™
LUNT AVENUE

Katie led 11 people in an Adopt-a-Beach project at Lunt Avenue beach. They focused on cleaning up the beach and outside dune area while enjoying time outdoors and with each other.
Larken led this project in Bronzeville in conjunction with her sorority. This project supplied paper recycling, e-recycling and green living tips to the community. They also had pumpkin carving for kids and a homemade green cleaning product demonstration for parents. 25 people participated in the event.
Laura and her team collected burnt out holiday light strings to be recycled through Elgin Recycling. This particular event was designed to point out that unique items have unique locations where they can be recycled, rather than putting them in the trash (or contaminating your Blue Cart!). In addition to the collection, there were giveaways, educational opportunities, and a good discussion about recycling that addressed everyone's questions.
Lisa's project was an Energy Carnival which included the following: over 120 STEM projects by students, energy vendors (Franklin Energy, Citizens Utility Board and WMU Sun Seeker program - they brought a solar car!), and energy games and activities. Lisa also organized Energy bar donations and many other prizes and give-aways. 300 students and family members were in attendance, including the alderman in Brighton Park.
Marlys Carceres

RECYCLING 101

Marlys teamed up with her employer's Human Resources team to organize a lunch n' learn where nearly 50 people showed up to play a recycling trivia game. People that answered questions correctly received prizes. Then a representative from the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation gave a presentation about the recycling system in Chicago; Marlys's coworkers were really shocked about how little they actually knew about recycling the right way. Lunch was served on recyclable plates and utensils.
Michael led a series of workshops, including three at the Rebuilding Exchange, to highlight ways to reduce energy usage in your home. Michael focused on apartment dwellers, recognizing that this group of people is often neglected in conversations about energy efficiency.
Michele Kroeger

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP FOR ST. BENEDICT THE AFRICAN’S GARDEN CLUB

Michele led a workshop for St. Benedict the African's Garden Club in Englewood at which she taught participants the basic principles of outdoor composting and indoor vermiculture. 20 people participated in the workshop and learned about the impacts of composting on reducing landfill waste, aiding in stormwater retention through creation of a soil amendment to improve water retention, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
A small team of three people met with local residents to discuss energy conservation and its actual effects on saving money. Weatherization, water conservation, and the use of CFL lightbulbs were the main areas of conversation. Materials were passed out to the attendees so that conservation methods could be utilized that would markedly reduce costs.
Pamela hosted a Green Health Fair at Christopher House Child Care Center including several different stations for the parents to learn about such things as the health of our drinking water, how to recycle by playing a hands-on recycling game, learning about energy conservation and how to save on their energy bills from a representative from the Citizens Utility Board, and about other "green" local businesses like the holistic healing center and the co-op store down the street.
Rachel
Kindstrand

TERRACYCLE RECYCLING PROJECT WITH CO-WORKERS

Rachel recruited her coworkers to collect personal beauty product packaging for one month, from November 15th to roughly December 15th, 2016. They collected 59 items to be recycled through Terracycle. In the course of collecting these recyclables with co-workers, Rachel was able to have many conversations more generally about recyclable plastics and teaching people what to put in the Blue Cart.
Rebecca organized and implemented a quarterly book club, drawing from the existing pool of readers in the city, that read and discussed a book about sustainability. She did this in partnership with the City Lit bookstore in Logan Square. The book club met for the first time on March 30 and will meet three more times this year, once around every three months. The intent of the club is to deepen the group's understanding of sustainable practices and environmental theories, and to discuss how they might adopt more eco-conscious behaviors in light of their readings.
Ryan Morton

YOUR TRASH IS MY TRASH

Ryan brought awareness of recycling best practices to his community by tabling at Washington Park. He engaged 15 community members in discussions about materials that could be disposed of in Blue Carts and how the system functions, including games and fact sheets.
Sam and her project team used their backgrounds in art, graphic design, and social media to educate the community about the impacts of our plastic-dependent habits on the lakes and the wildlife that call them home. In total, nearly 18,000 people saw her posts on social media featuring provocative designs with wildlife and plastics; 313 people shared these images with their networks.
Sarah organized a 3-hour hands-on composting workshop targeting South Loop residents in partnership with The Alliance for a Greener South Loop. Approximately 50 attendees learned about the food waste problem and composting as one effective solution. Her team provided opportunities to learn about three types of composting, and participants received kitchen counter compost collectors, indoor worm bins, worms, and plants donated by event sponsors.
Savitha and her project team put on a workshop for 10 people at which they learned about microbeads and their presence in personal care products. They learned what to look for when purchasing products and how to avoid these products altogether by making their own natural facial scrubs.

Johnson & Johnson's Safety & Care Commitment

Microbeads “scrub away dead skin in much the same way a sponge would.”

So why don't we just use sponges? Or loofahs? Or washcloths?

#banthebead
Sean hosted a booth at the Logan Square Farmers Market to discuss various methods for reducing food waste and the impacts of our food choices upon the environment. 53 people visited his booth and many signed pledges, talked about composting options, and considered using community-supported agriculture as a way to access more fresh, local food.
Sean led an event at which he shared the benefits of biking and using Divvy, the city's bike-share program. He invited the Bicycling Ambassadors to give a presentation about bike safety and the rules of the road for the participants and practiced his own public speaking skills as a part of the event.
Sean partnered with the Institute for Cultural Affairs and presented on worm composting at one of the hub days. He staffed a table at the event and talked about food waste, including statistics and pictures. He then engaged participants in dialog about how they could further reduce their food waste, then taught them the basic principles of worm composting. He made two worm bins through this event.
Sean Sheridan

FOOD WASTE

Sean hosted a table at the Winona Foster Carmen Winnemac Block Club’s annual Clean Up Green Up event. He used a quiz to get people thinking about food waste and what they could do to help reduce it. He also shared several books from the local library as resources should people want to learn more after the event. He also used this opportunity to collect 28 pounds of non-perishable food for the neighborhood food pantry.
Simone's project was to organize a skillshare during which multiple workshops were taught by her and her project team members. The workshops that she coordinated and/or taught included making green cleaners and natural face masks. The theme and goal of the skillshare and all its components was to teach the participants how to make their own environmentally friendly products. 10 people participated.
J created an entertaining and educational video depicting Chicago's combined sewer system and how it is impacted by rainfall. He hosted a release party with trivia and discussions of environmental ethics using the puppets from the video as panelists. This video, Lou Chicago's Rainy Day, is now available on YouTube and has been viewed nearly 600 times.
Teresa led a workshop in partnership with the Chicago Community Land Trust to teach their homeowners about weatherization and green cleaning. She handed out kits, power strips, and homemade green cleaners to the ten attendees and taught them how they could continue these efforts after the workshop.
Teresa Lambarry
WHO ATE MY LUNCH – WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Teresa hosted a workshop in East Side to teach participants about worm composting, both as a way to keep food waste out of the landfill and to nourish homegrown plants. 20 people attended her workshop held in partnership with the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association and the local alderman's office.
Tyrone's project invited community residents from West Garfield Park and Humboldt Park to participate in educational and recreational activities which involved creative reuse. Through these activities, Tyrone provided participants information and training on some key facts about recycling and keeping a healthy home. These workshops were hosted in an informal setting, at common local venues (like laundromats) and provided participants with an easily accessible location to drop off unique recyclables.
Zoë Bottger

A GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR APARTMENT AND CONDO BUILDINGS IN CHICAGO

Zoë created a guide targeting condo and apartment residents (as they are often neglected in discussions of how to be more sustainable). Her guide offers a starting place for taking action to make buildings more sustainable. Information included in the guide addressed energy, water, and recycling and included rebates and opportunities specifically for these types of dwellings (and dwellers!).
Madeline worked with a church in Brainard to focus on sustainable, high quality healthy food while building community relationships. She offered multigenerational activities for a wide and deep approach to engaging people in the South Side Unity Center for Christianity's efforts at growing vegetables and flowers and better understanding food sources.