



News Release

**For Immediate Release
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Ficano to Award 49 Wayne County “Green Schools”

Wayne County, MI – Wayne County CEO Robert A. Ficano will recognize 49 “Green Schools” at the University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Environmental Interpretive Center on Wednesday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m. Wayne County’s Regional Education Service Agency and the Detroit Zoological Society have also teamed up as “Green School” supporters.

To be recognized as a “Green School”; schools must implement a minimum of 10 out of 20 energy saving and environmental activities established by the State of Michigan. Some of those requirements include establishing a paper recycling program, implementing an energy savings program, holding an environmental education event, or promoting neighborhood energy conservation.

Other methods include utilizing a variety of green infrastructure management techniques that enhance storm water runoff by installing rain barrels, creating rain gardens, and “grow zones” that help cleanse untreated storm water.

“At a time when so many are talking ‘green,’ we’re proud to recognize students and teachers who are living it,” said CEO Ficano. “These young people will also be the environmental leaders of tomorrow, and their innovation and commitment to a healthy environment will help create the new jobs and alternative energy we need in the future.”

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Some of the many “Green” activities included a school’s 4th grade students having a “Solar Sprint” where the students designed, tested and raced solar “Lego” race cars. Several schools participated in “Waste Free” lunches by recycling all lunch trays, water bottles, and juice pouches. Another school is breeding amphibians and donating them to the Detroit Zoo.

The following Wayne County schools will be certified as “Green Schools” this year:

Dearborn School District: Snow Elementary, McCollough/Unis Academy, DuVall Elementary, Whitmore-Bolles Elementary, Bryant Middle, Lindberg Elementary, Nowlin Elementary, Salina Intermediate, River Oaks Elementary, Howard Elementary, Stout Middle, Maples Elementary, Dearborn High, and Fordson High

Garden City School District: Memorial Elementary, Lathers Elementary, and Douglas Elementary

Gibraltar School District: Parsons Elementary

Grosse Pointe School District: Defer Elementary, Ferry Elementary, Richard Elementary, Monteith Elementary, Trombly Elementary, Parcels Elementary, Kerby Elementary, Pierce Middle, Mason Elementary, Maire Elementary, Grosse Pointe North High, and Poupard Elementary

Livonia School District: Buchanan Elementary

Northville School District: Amerman Elementary and Hillside Middle

Plymouth-Canton School District: Miller Elementary, Isbister Elementary

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Private Schools: University Liggett K-12, Grosse Pointe Woods; Sacred Heart K-8, Dearborn; St. Valentine K-8, Redford Township; Detroit Service Learning K-8, Detroit; Our Lady of Good Counsel K-8, Plymouth; New Morning School K-8 Plymouth; and Ladywood High, Livonia

Riverview School District: Seitz Middle

Romulus School District: Romulus Elementary

Southgate School District: Fordline Elementary

Taylor School District: Eureka Heights Elementary

Trenton School District: RC Hedke Elementary

Wyandotte School District: Roosevelt High

All schools must re-certify annually to maintain their “Green Schools” designation. The Wayne County “Green Schools” program is being implemented to encourage environmental stewardship, promote green infrastructure methods, energy conservation, and to enhance quality of life while helping to save Wayne County taxpayer dollars through energy efficiency and environmental protection. The “Green Schools” is a statewide program with over 500 schools certified throughout Michigan.

A full list of the Wayne County “Green Schools” program requirements and an application packet can be found on the Wayne County Department of Environment website at www.waynecounty.com, or by calling Nancy Gregor at (734) 326-4607.

For more information, contact Nancy Gregor (above) or Environment Director Kurt Heise at (313) 224-3631 or (313) 213-5151.

