

## **2014 Wayne County's "Green Schools"**



Wayne County received applications from, and proudly recognized 132 schools into the 2014 Wayne County Green Schools Program. These schools implemented at least 10 environmentally friendly activities during the 2013-14 academic year. Under Wayne County's Green School program, a school is eligible to receive a green, emerald or evergreen school environmental stewardship designation if the school or students complete activities in a combination of four categories: Recycling, Energy Savings, Environmental Protection and Miscellaneous. A school will receive a Green School designation by successfully completing 10 activities. The Emerald School designation is achieved by successfully participating in 15 activities and the Evergreen School designation is achieved by successfully participating in 20 activities. Activities range from establishing a paper recycling program, to implementing an energy savings program, to holding an environmental education event promoting the health of Great Lakes watersheds.

Wayne County's Department of Public Services has been working with Wayne RESA for six years to promote and grow the County's Green Schools Program. In the first year (2008), Wayne County recognized 12 schools, 50 in 2009, 99 the 2010, 141 in 2011, 132 Wayne County schools were recognized in 2012, 129 schools were recognized in 2013 and this year (2014) 132 schools were recognized. Of this year's 132 schools, 35 earned the Green School designation, 50 earned the Emerald School designation and 47 schools participated in 20 or more activities to earn an Evergreen School designation. Of this year's 132 schools, 18 participated for their 1<sup>st</sup> year, 17 participated for their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 13 for their 3<sup>rd</sup>, 21 for their 4<sup>th</sup> year, 34 for their 5<sup>th</sup>, 23 for their 6<sup>th</sup> year and 6 schools are from the original 12 schools in 2008, 7 years ago. Wayne County has 34 school districts; twenty-three (23) of them are represented by at least one Green School. Of this year's 132, sixteen are represented by non-public schools, 17 by public school academies (PSA's) and 99 are public schools.

The 2013-14 Recognition Ceremony was held on May 14, 2014 at the Wayne RESA Boyd Auditorium. Fifty (50) of the 132 schools were represented by administrators, teachers, students and/or parents. Five schools provided a display of their green school activities. Five schools participated in the student presentations made up of public service announcements, project summaries, up cycling project and a school's Lorax project (stormwater management).

The Wayne County Green School program is being implemented to encourage environmental stewardship, energy conservation, and to enhance our quality of life through energy efficiency and environmental protection. "Green Schools" is a statewide program administered at the County level. Schools must re-certify annually to maintain "Green Schools" status. Below are photographs taken at Wayne County's 2014 Recognition Ceremony.



More information on Wayne County's Green School Program can be found at <http://waynecounty.com/doe/1136.htm>

# Alliance of Rouge Communities Trees for Green Schools



## Wayne County & Oakland County Schools November 2014

As part of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) 2014 Green Infrastructure Education Campaign, Wayne County's Water Quality Management Division (WQMD) coordinated the purchase of trees for recognized Michigan Green Schools in the ARC. The tree species offered were all native to Michigan and included eastern red bud, sugar maple and tulip tree. The trees were 1.5 inch caliper and depending on the variety, 7'-10' in height. WQMD offered trees to the twelve (12) schools that were new to the Green School program in the Oakland and Wayne County portions of the Rouge River watershed. Eight schools accepted a tree. The remaining 4 trees were given to Farmington Public Schools for hosting the tree pick up.

Healthy trees in our communities improve our water quality. In addition to the visual impact of trees, tree canopies and root systems provide a natural filter to our water supply and reduce storm water runoff, flooding and erosion\*.

Trees are natural air filters, too. Their foliage reduces particulate matter from the air, including dust, micro sized metals, and pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and sulfur dioxides. Forty trees can remove 80lbs of air pollution annually\*.



Eastern red bud planted at  
Dearborn Height Montessori

Trees cool the air naturally from the effects of water evaporating from leaves and from direct shade. Buildings shaded by trees need less energy for cooling, which in turn means lower monthly utility bills in the summer. Four trees planted around each home could save up to 30% on summer cooling costs\*.

For more information on the ARC's Green Infrastructure Education Campaign please contact Ms Meaghan Price, ARC Senior Associate Scientist at (586) 296-1010 or email her at [mprice@ectinc.com](mailto:mprice@ectinc.com). For more information on the Green Schools Program please contact Ms. Nancy Gregor, Wayne County Water Quality Management Division at (734)326-4607 or email at [ngregor@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:ngregor@co.wayne.mi.us)

### Participating Schools:

School	School District
Ridge Wood Elementary	Northville
Dearborn Heights Montessori Center	PSA in Dearborn Hgts
American Montessori Academy	PSA in Redford
Ladywood High School	non-public in Livonia
Buchanan Elementary	Livonia
Beechview Elementary	Farmington
Wood Creek Elementary	Farmington
Farmington Schools	Farmington
Reuther Middle School	Rochester

\* Information obtained from the *Value of Trees* flyer the Alliance for Community Trees [www.actrees.org](http://www.actrees.org)

**Dearborn Heights Montessori Center's Facebook page post**

As part of our Green Schools recognition, DHMC was included in the Trees for Green School Campaign which is sponsored by the Alliance of Rouge Communities. Trees are offered to schools that are located within the Rouge River watershed. We received an 8-foot Eastern Redbud that has now been planted in our school yard habitat. Upper elementary and middle school students participated in the tree planting earlier this afternoon.

