

Theodore Roosevelt High School

2026 Project Report



The Project:

Roosevelt High School's Green Team launched Thirst for Change to reduce single-use plastic waste by improving access to clean drinking water. By installing NOAH water filtration systems to lower lead-contamination risks and leading a school-wide awareness campaign, students increased access to safe drinking water and decreased widespread reliance on disposable plastic bottles while promoting healthier and more sustainable habits.

Project Focus: Water & Waste Reduction

Students involved: 8

Staff Involved: 4

Location: Chicago, IL

Students impacted: 1000+



We will send the message to our peers about advocating for better environmental conditions and the importance of our conscious decisions as consumers!



The Process:

Through the IGSP Sustainability Self-Assessment and Building Walkthrough and a student poll, Roosevelt's Green Team learned that peers were using single-use bottled water due to lack of refill stations and distrust of existing water infrastructure. An audit found that in one day, the school went through 241 single-use plastic water bottles. To increase student confidence in the existing water infrastructure, the green team is installing the NOAH water filtration system, which lowers lead contamination risks by preventing water from sitting still in lead pipes. These devices will be installed in two existing fountains to increase access and confidence in clean drinking water within the school. This installation will be accompanied by a school-wide "Thirst for Change" event featuring água frescas, popsicles, and educational materials, as well as peer-led education through presentations, social media outreach, and ongoing culinary program integration.

The Outcomes:

Roosevelt High School utilized student research, school-wide auditing, education, and advocacy, to better understand their plastic use and water quality landscape. The NOAH system will increase access to safe, trustworthy water in the school, reducing water refill wait times and encouraging students to drink from the fountains or refill reusable bottles instead of purchasing single-use plastics. Through ongoing data collection, social media outreach, and integration into culinary programming, students are building a culture of sustainability and advocacy, with plans to expand the effort by distributing reusable bottles and continuing education campaigns.

