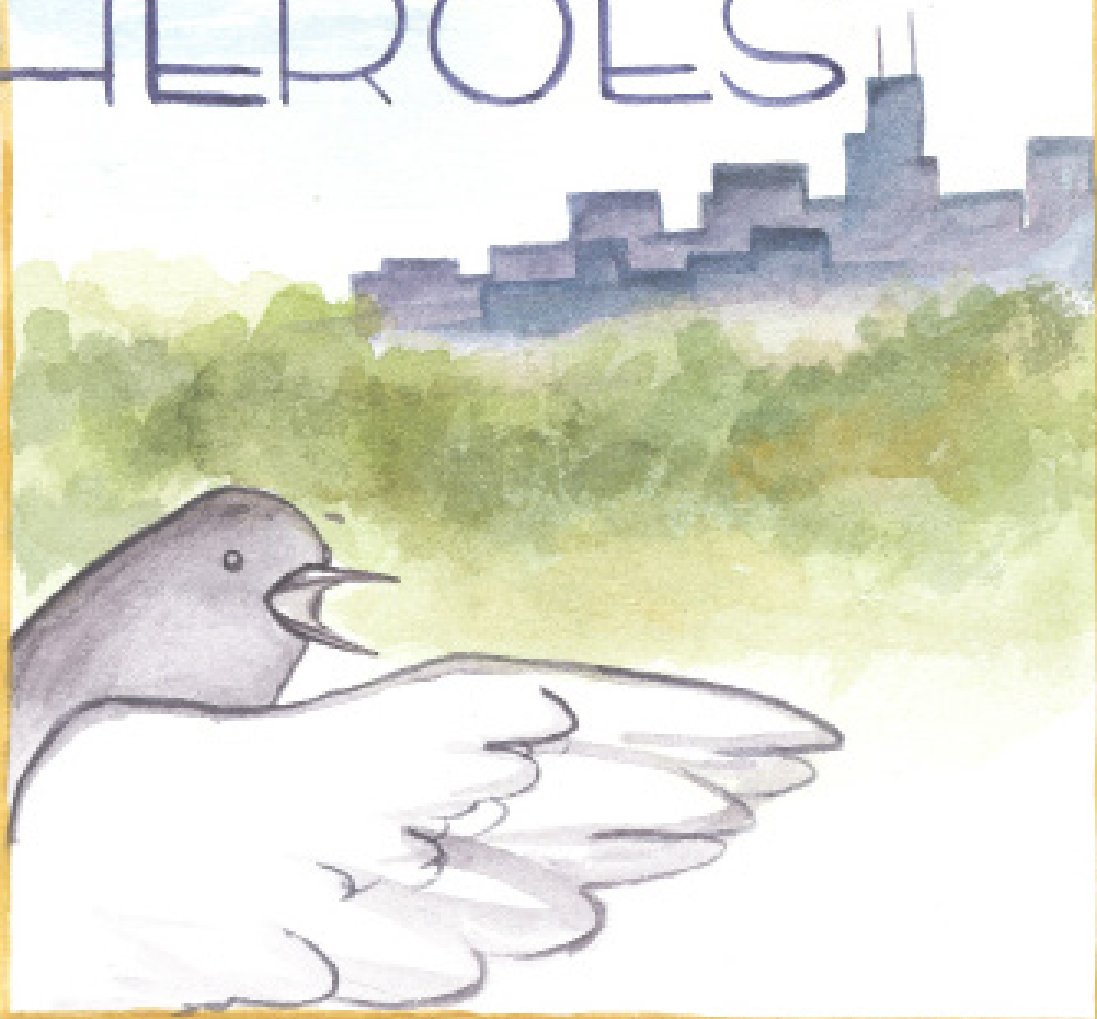


The
AMAZING ADVENTURES

of

CHICAGO'S
CLIMATE ACTION
HEROES



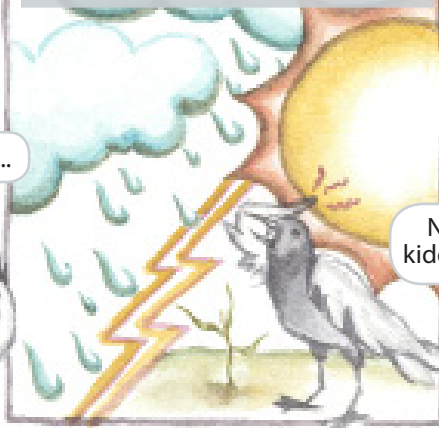
OUR WORLD'S CLIMATE IS CHANGING



Hmmm...



TEMPERATURES, HUMIDITY, AND WIND ARE BECOMING LESS STABLE, RESULTING IN MORE FLOODS, DROUGHTS, AND HIGHER TEMPERATURES.



No kiddin'!

CLIMATE CHANGE IS LARGELY BEING CAUSED BY HUMANS BURNING FOSSIL FUELS TO DO THINGS LIKE DRIVE THEIR CARS, HEAT THEIR HOMES, AND RUN THEIR FACTORIES.



You don't say...

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HUGE PROBLEM...



WHO ARE THE HEROES THAT WILL RISE TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE? WHAT SUPER HUMAN POWERS MUST THEY POSSESS?

Ok, Hold it, Mr. Narrator!



HUH? OH, HELLO THERE, BIRD. WHAT IS IT?

You had me up until that whole "hero" baloney.



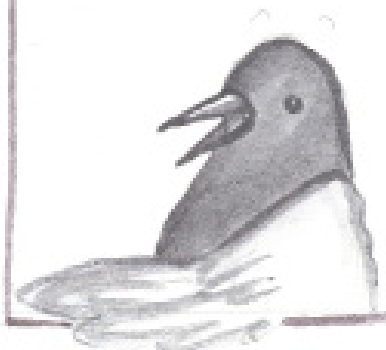
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Climate change is a HUGE problem, but that doesn't mean you have to have SUPER HUMAN powers to be able to do something about it.



Once we understand climate change, we can figure out what we can all do to help.

Take, for example, what my friends and I are doing in the Chicago Region....



It all started one day....

Hey everybody,
thanks for meeting
me here!

Well, you did say
that it was important....
Beaver, this wetland
you built is quite lovely.

Oh, thanks! Well, the Mrs.
always wanted a place, and...

EHEM!

Sorry, but we really do have some important issues to talk about here!
I think we all have been noticing that we're in trouble, Chicago's **CLIMATE IS CHANGING**, and it's making it harder for all of us to live around here.

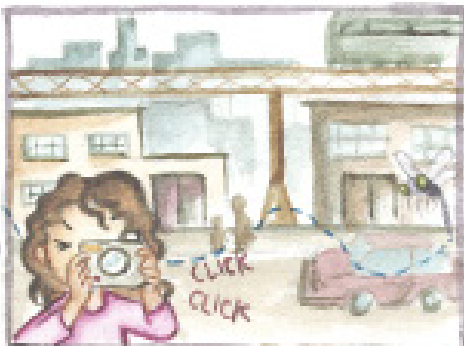
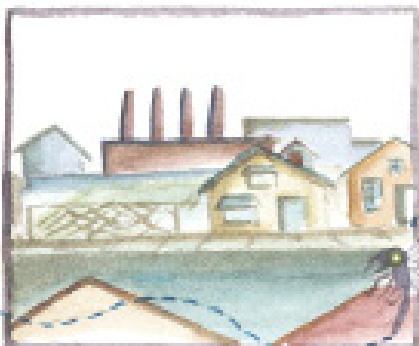
Oh my, yes. I do
believe it has been
getting a bit warmer.

And the
weather has
been crazy!

Yeah... I mean, who knows
what's goin' on with this rain.

First there
are droughts,
then —
BAM—floods!
How's a
beaver
supposed to
build a dam?

I think we need to
find some humans who
are willing to help us....



Hey there, Amira. On another Southeast Side photo shoot? What kind of photos did you take today?



I got tons of stuff. All my friends and neighbors are the best models, cuz they're always doing neat things.



A kid in my class told me he and his parents do "stewardship work" like weeding and other stuff that helps natural areas stay healthy.



My neighbors from Togo share recipes. They like cooking food that reminds them of where they're from in Africa with fresh and low cost ingredients.



Ms. Peters "weatherizes" her house by sealing her windows. She says it keeps her house toasty in the winter, cool in the summer, and saves energy and money.



Here's my neighbor with his Southeast Side mini-farm. He likes to be able to raise his own food in his backyard.



These are great photos! You know, when I was your age, things around here looked very different.... There were big steel factories here....

That reminds me, I don't want to be late!

We're on our way to talk to the Governor about clean energy in our neighborhood.



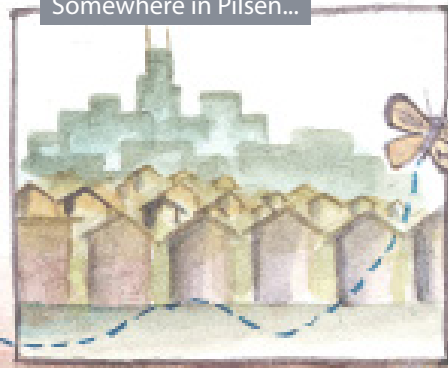
We want our government to know that we want jobs and factories that don't pollute our neighborhood.



My neighbors are doing a lot to make the Southeast Side a better place to live.



Somewhere in Pilsen...



Abuelita...

Abuelita...



Hm... What is it, mija?

Abuelita Lucia, look! A butterfly!



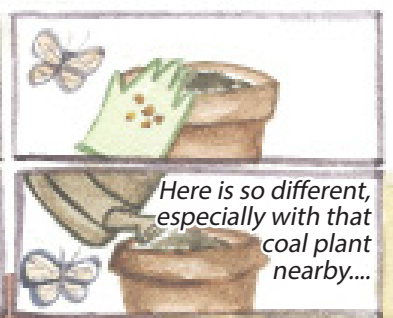
Oh my! It's a Monarch... When it's cold here in Chicago, some Monarchs migrate all the way to Michoacán, Mexico, where your abuelita is from.



You know, Monarchs are a lot like little girls. They like to play where there's lots of sunshine and flowers.



When I was your age there were plenty of places to play like that.



Here is so different, especially with that coal plant nearby....

I worry that there are no safe places for butterflies or little girls to grow up.



Some of my neighbors are really worried about the coal plant polluting our air and how that affects our health....

So my neighbors and I work together to make sure there are safe, green spaces in our neighborhood.



Hey, lil' Bird, you hungry, too?

Mmmm, smells good, Mr. Walter! Your kitchen is the best restaurant in town! Lucky for me, I live next door to you!

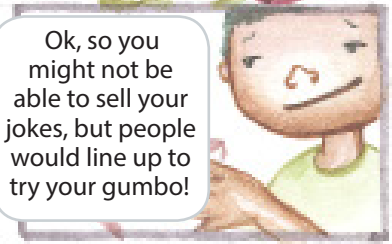
Well, I like to think the secret ingredient is history! My great grandma used this recipe in Mississippi, and even before that, our ancestors used a lot of the same ingredients in Africa.

Plus, I use veggies that are grown nearby. You know a lot of our neighbors grow great produce right here in Bronzeville.

I mean, why eat something that's gotta be sliced and diced in a factory and then all wrapped up to be trucked over to a shelf, when you can walk a block over and pick your tomato right off the vine?



Plus, our neighbor Mrs. Jones grows beets that can't be beat! Ha!



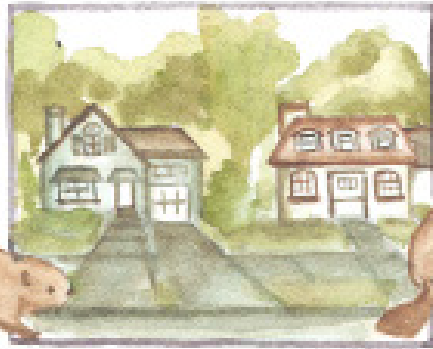
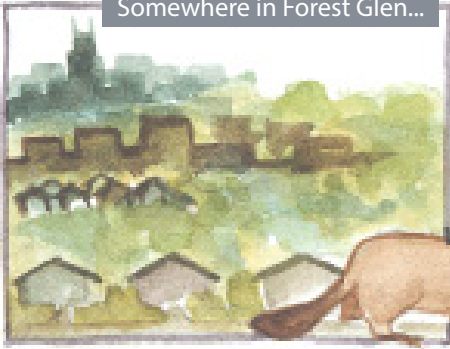
Ok, so you might not be able to sell your jokes, but people would line up to try your gumbo!

They already do! You know, our neighbors are starting up a mini green economy.



People are growing, buying, and preparing local produce right here in Bronzeville!

Somewhere in Forest Glen...



Hey, Jimmy! Building something again, I see.

Oh, hey, Mr. Arong. How was your ride through the forest preserve?

Great! Thanks for helping me fix up my bike. I just wanted to return this allen wrench you lent me.



No problem!



What did you make this time, Jimmy?

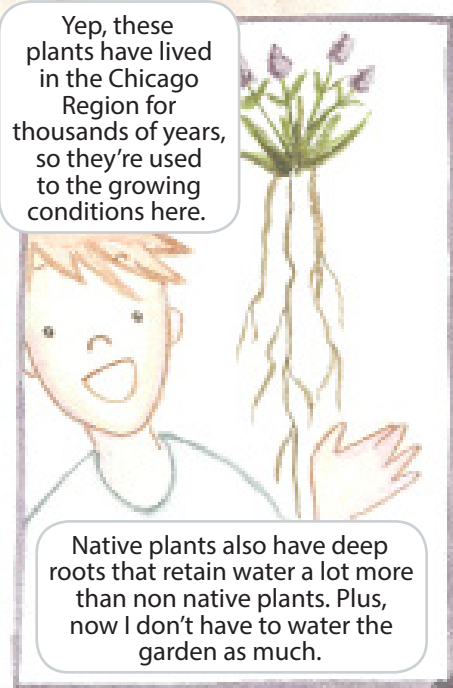
A rain barrel! it catches water from the roof.



Summer storms have been getting pretty crazy, and this can help decrease basement flooding in our neighborhood.

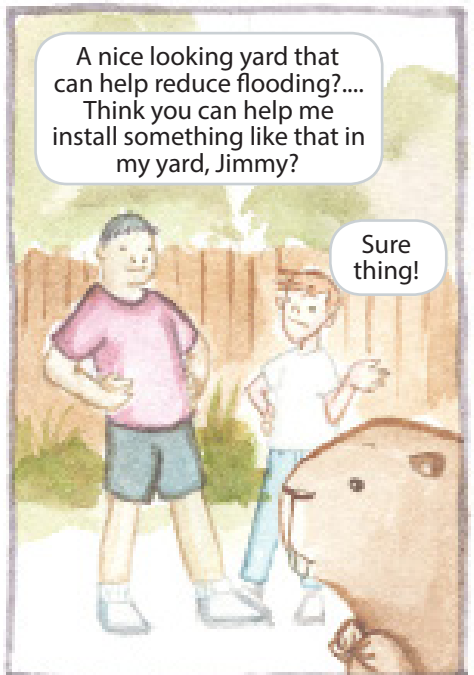
It looks good with our native garden, right?

Native garden? You mean plants from this area?



Yep, these plants have lived in the Chicago Region for thousands of years, so they're used to the growing conditions here.

Native plants also have deep roots that retain water a lot more than non native plants. Plus, now I don't have to water the garden as much.



A nice looking yard that can help reduce flooding?... Think you can help me install something like that in my yard, Jimmy?

Sure thing!

That night...

OK Gang, you know what to do. We'll meet back here...

BRONZEVILLE

FOREST GLEN

SOUTHEAST SIDE

PILSEN

Magic Sound

Whoa! I think...

Am I...

I think I'm...

I'M SHRINKING!!!

What's goin' on?

Hey! You're the bird from this morning on my window!

Hey, Walter! That soup really did smell good! Sorry to wake you, but we need your help!

My help? Unless you need a salad I'm not sure what I can do....

Well, we're also finding friends in Forest Glen, Pilsen, and the Southeast Side, and-

That reminds me, we're late to meet the others. Hop on!

Ah... So you shrunk me so that I'm travel-sized!

Yup! I'll explain everything when we're with the others....

Got any seat belts?

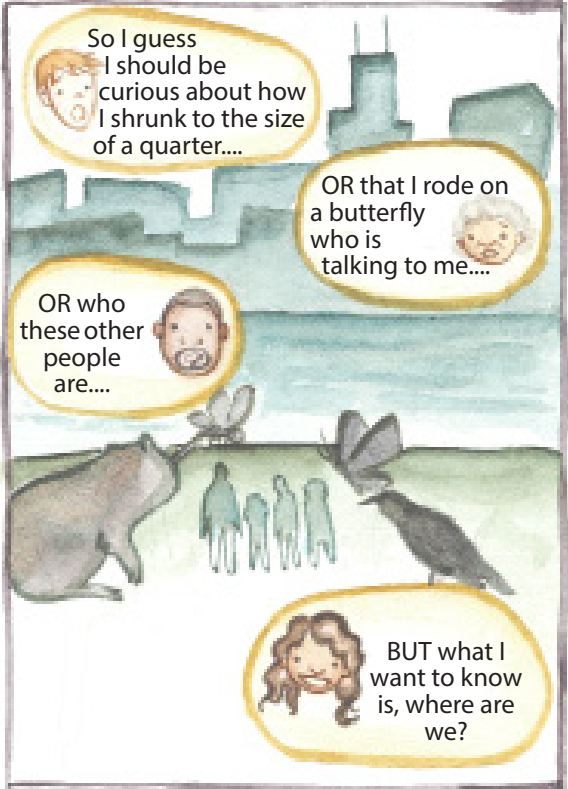


Hey! Bird is here, now we can get started!

Woohoo! This is the best dream ever!

Thanks for the ride, Miss Butterfly. You must be tired.

Hey, everyone!



So I guess I should be curious about how I shrunk to the size of a quarter...

OR that I rode on a butterfly who is talking to me....

OR who these other people are....

BUT what I want to know is, where are we?

OK! Introductions! All of you have been brought here to Northerly Island because Chicago's native species need help.



BLACK TERN

We wanted to talk to you about what's happening that's making it harder for us to live here in the Chicago Region.

HINE'S EMERALD DRAGONFLY



JIMMY, FROM FOREST GLEN



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

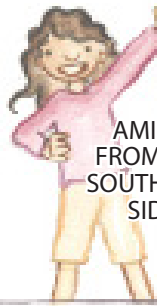
LUCIA, FROM PILSEN



WALTER, FROM BRONZEVILLE



AMIRA, FROM THE SOUTHEAST SIDE



NORTH AMERICAN BEAVER



And you four seem to already be doing things that are helping us.



Jimmy, buddy! You got some great buildin' chops, you know that, kid?

You mean my rain barrel and native garden?



I love that stuff! And I should know good building. The dams I make end up creating wetlands that other animals just love.

I just wanted to help decrease basement flooding in our neighborhood and have a lawn that's easy to take care of, and looks nice. I didn't know I was helping you, too!

With our changing climate, we have bigger storms.

Water that doesn't get absorbed by plants or soil will run off our streets and rooftops, pickin' up all sorts of dirty stuff and trash, and then that stuff'll get into my lakes and streams.

Well, get more of your friends thinkin' about how they deal with their water, and I'll be able to keep creating wetlands.

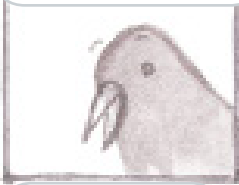
You know, I met the Mrs. in one of the wetlands created by Beaver.

In fact, we Black Terns all start and raise our families in wetlands... But in Chicago, climate change is threatening wetlands.

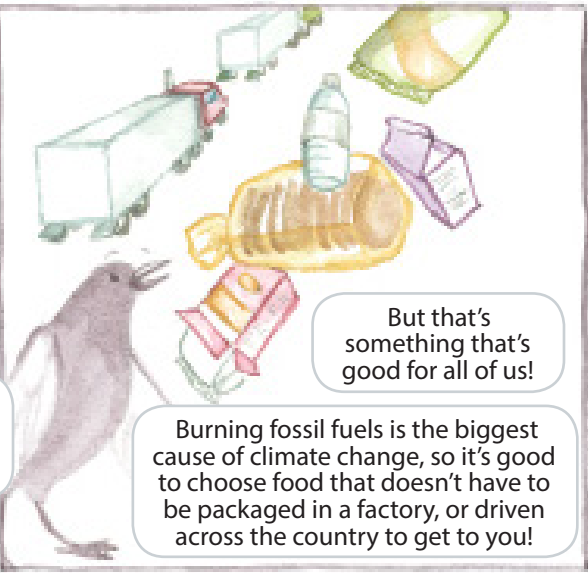
Keep doing things that help us deal with climate change, like using local produce.



So what can we do to help you?



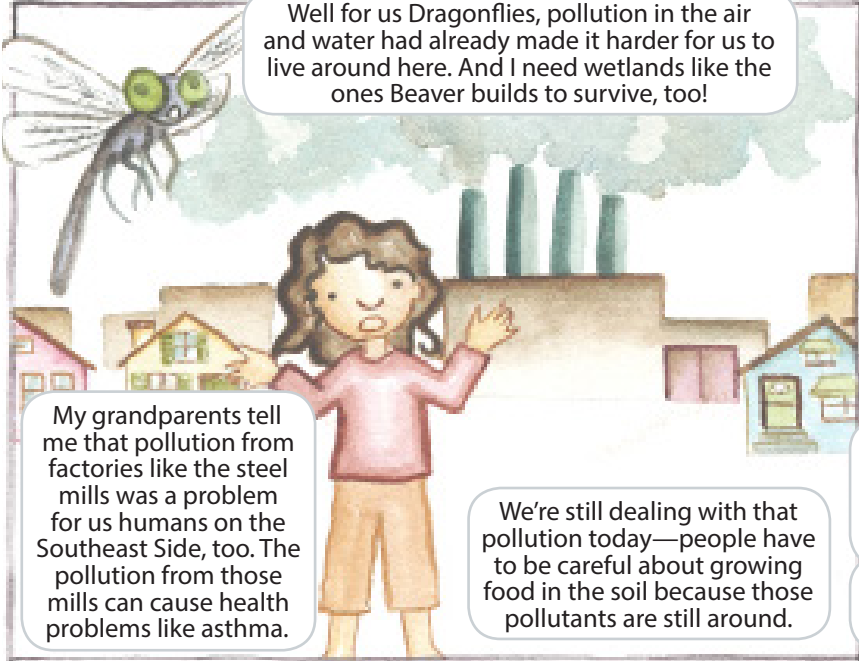
Well I just like using fruits and veggies that are grown nearby cuz they're fresher and tastier.



But that's something that's good for all of us!

Burning fossil fuels is the biggest cause of climate change, so it's good to choose food that doesn't have to be packaged in a factory, or driven across the country to get to you!

Well for us Dragonflies, pollution in the air and water had already made it harder for us to live around here. And I need wetlands like the ones Beaver builds to survive, too!



My grandparents tell me that pollution from factories like the steel mills was a problem for us humans on the Southeast Side, too. The pollution from those mills can cause health problems like asthma.

We're still dealing with that pollution today—people have to be careful about growing food in the soil because those pollutants are still around.



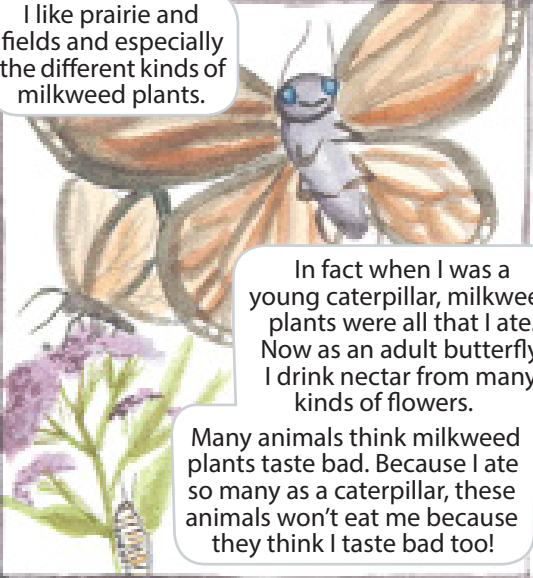
Now our community welcomes factories willing to seek neighborly solutions to pollution on the Southeast Side!



My neighbors do other stuff to save money and energy. I guess they also burn fewer fossil fuels, too!

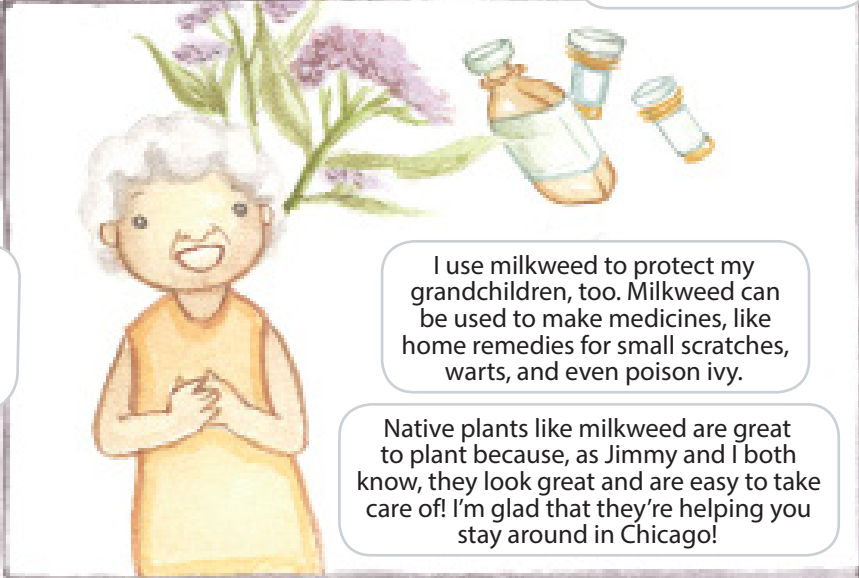
It's great that you encourage other humans to do lil' and big things that are good for their community and the environment!

I like prairie and fields and especially the different kinds of milkweed plants.



In fact when I was a young caterpillar, milkweed plants were all that I ate. Now as an adult butterfly, I drink nectar from many kinds of flowers.

Many animals think milkweed plants taste bad. Because I ate so many as a caterpillar, these animals won't eat me because they think I taste bad too!



I use milkweed to protect my grandchildren, too. Milkweed can be used to make medicines, like home remedies for small scratches, warts, and even poison ivy.

Native plants like milkweed are great to plant because, as Jimmy and I both know, they look great and are easy to take care of! I'm glad that they're helping you stay around in Chicago!

Well it seems like we all have a reason to help each other! We were hoping you could help us find ways to have your friends help us keep livin' here in Chicago!



Climate change isn't just nature's problem, it affects us humans too, and all of us (even the ones without wings) can do something about it!



Some of our neighbors are already helping by doing stuff for the environment—



and some of them don't even realize that the things they are already doing for themselves are good for the environment, too!

Others just need a little more information to help them get started.

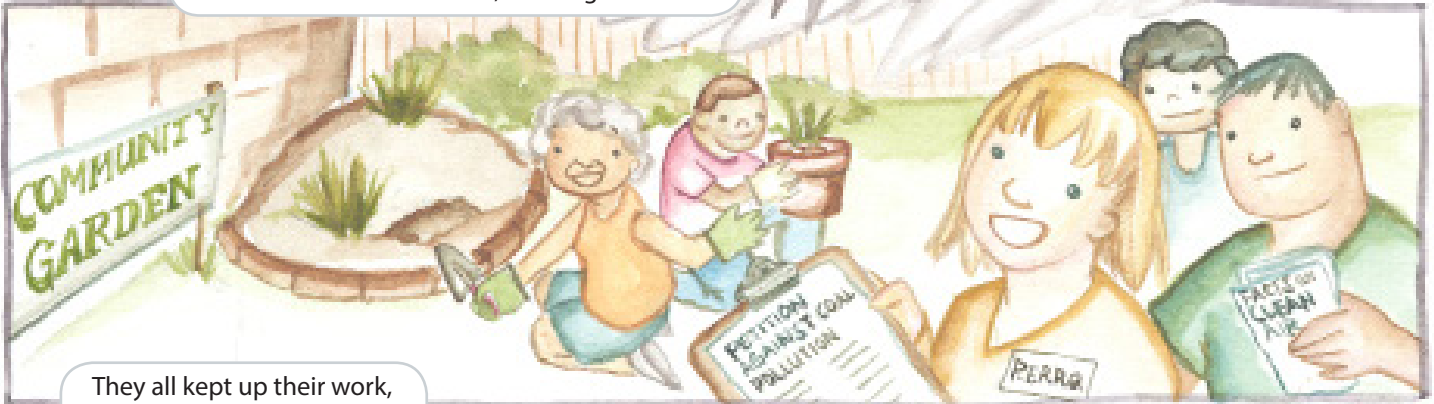


We'd be glad to think about more things we can do!

That's all we ask! I think this is a pretty great place to live.... We all gotta work together to make sure it can keep getting better!



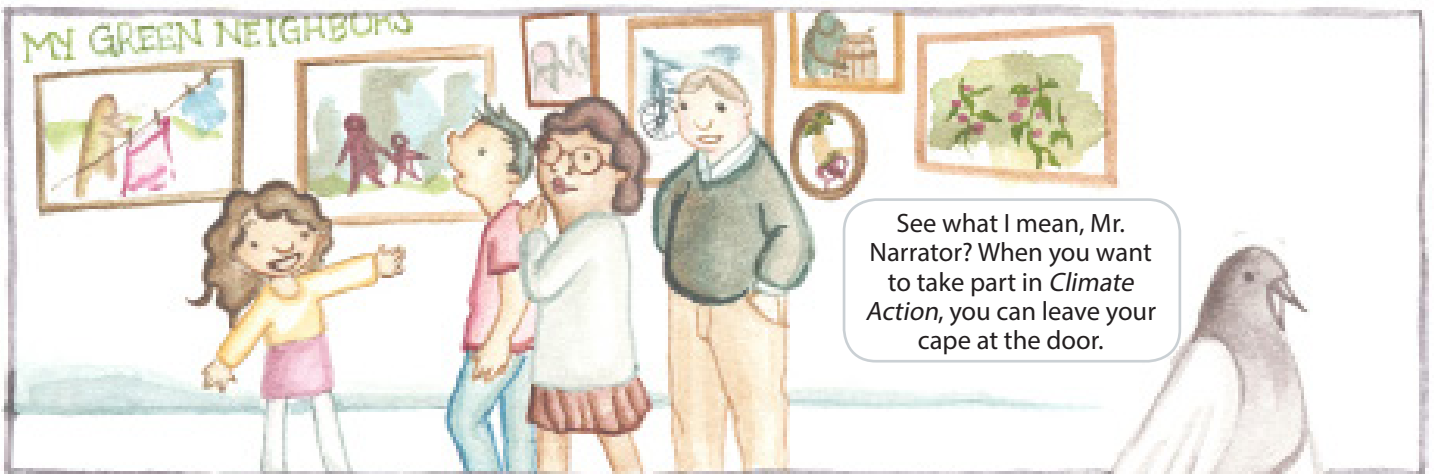
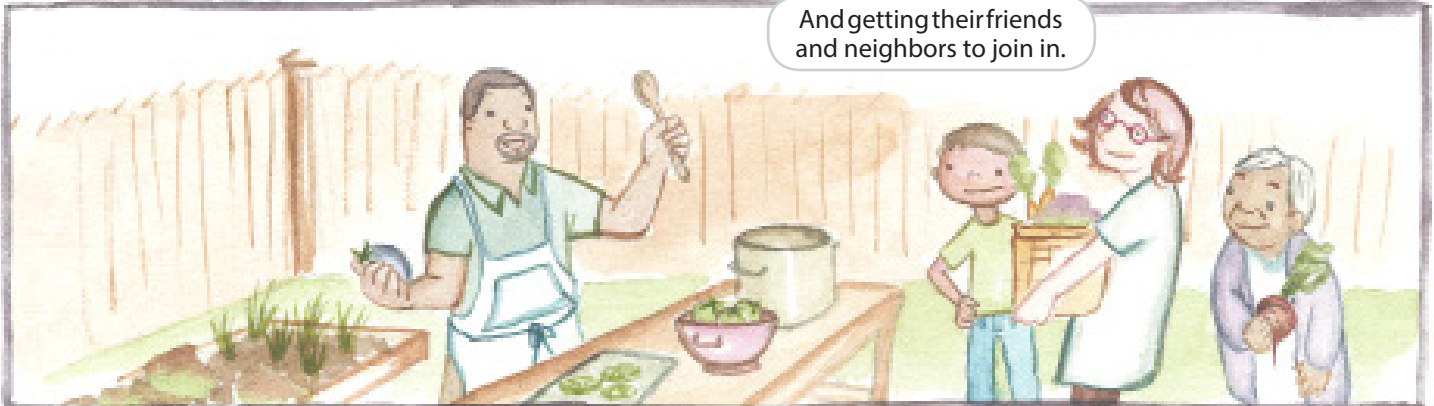
Well by the next morning, we brought our new friends back to their houses, and original sizes....



They all kept up their work, doing stuff that was good for them and us.



And getting their friends and neighbors to join in.



See what I mean, Mr. Narrator? When you want to take part in *Climate Action*, you can leave your cape at the door.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Hello, my name is Walter and I live in Bronzeville. I like to cook healthy food, using local ingredients. Here's a link to some community projects about local food and other issues happening in my neighborhood: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/bronzeville



Hey! Jimmy here, from Forest Glen. My yard both looks great and helps the environment using native plants and rain barrels. Take a look at these rain barrel installations and other projects going on in my neighborhood: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/forest-glen



Hello, lovely to meet you. My name is Lucia and I am from Pilsen. My neighbors and I worked together to create a community garden and take a stand against air pollution near our homes: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/pilsen



Hiya! I'm Amira, from the Southeast Side. I like to spread the word on all the environmentally friendly things my neighbors do around their community, and in their own homes: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/south-chicago



MEET THE ANIMALS

Hello, we Black Terns spend our winters in South America, but come to places like the Chicago Region to meet our mates and raise our families. Those places, or habitats, are threatened by climate change.

You can learn more about how climate change affects me here: chicagowildernessmag.org/issues/summer1999/blacktern.html



Monarch butterflies that spend the summer in the Chicago Region travel to places like Michoacán, Mexico, where a lot of Pilsen residents are from! Today's changing climate can make this long trip harder for me.

Learn more about how climate change affects Monarchs here: commondreams.org/headlines03/1111-06.htm



People know me for my giant green eyes, just like every other Hine's Emerald Dragonfly. We're listed as endangered, so you can see why climate change worries me. Climate change threatens my usual hangouts, the wetlands. Even if other wetlands come and go—the ones that I rely on are special and rare.

You can learn more about me here: fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/hed/hins_fct.html



I'm a North American Beaver, and the dams that I make help create wetlands that a lot of other animals rely on. Climate change can affect the lakes, streams, and rivers that I like, making it tough for me to keep building my dams.

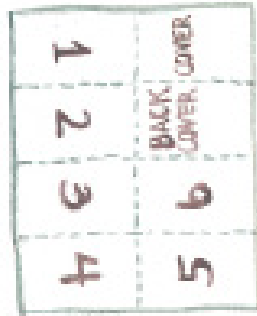
Well you can find out more here: web.extension.illinois.edu/illinoissteward/openarticle.cfm?ArticleID=552





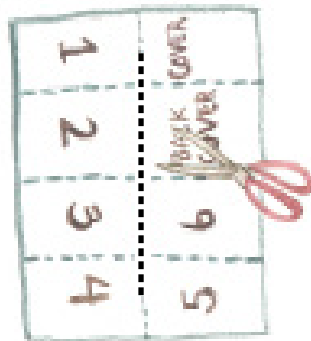
Make Your OWN Comic Book!

HEY! Do you or someone you know do things that are good for the environment? Follow these instructions, and use the next page as a guide. Soon you'll have everyone reading your very own comic book!



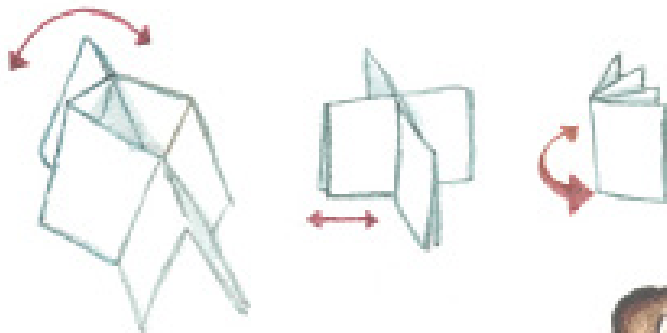
STEP ONE: Take one piece of paper (11" by 8.5") and fold it so there are 8 even squares.

STEP TWO: Draw the cover of your comic book on the top right square, then work your way counter clockwise. Make sure your drawings stay right side up! (Look at the next page for help and ideas of what to write on each page.)



STEP THREE: Cut along the black dotted line. (Look at the next page for help.)

STEP FOUR: Fold up your paper along the same fold lines again. Your paper should open in the middle, making two pages that you can fold over into your book!



Now get out there, and share your comic book with all your friends!



BY: (YOUR NAME)

Draw the cover to your climate action comic book, this end up!

COVER

Draw the BACK cover to your climate action comic book, this end up!

BACK COVER

FOLD ALONG THIS LINE

How can you encourage your friends and neighbors to do things that are good for the environment and their community?

9

PAGE

How does this activity help you, your family, or your community?

5

PAGE

FOLD ALONG THIS LINE

PAGE

4

How does this activity help the environment?

FOLD ALONG THIS LINE

PAGE

3

What is an environmentally friendly action that you, or someone you know does?

FOLD ALONG THIS LINE

PAGE

2

Where are you from? What is your community like?

FOLD ALONG THIS LINE

PAGE

1

Who are you? What is your name?

CUT ALONG BLACK DOTTED LINE


The Amazing Adventures of Chicago's Climate Action Heroes was inspired by four real Chicago community climate action projects. To learn more about these projects, visit:
climatechicago.feldmuseum.org/communities.

There are many ways to use this comic book as an educational tool, including:

- Act out the stories
- Research the communities and animals
- Share your community's climate action stories

Find these ideas and more at:
climatechicago.feldmuseum/learn.

Illustrated by Lisa See Kim

 Printed on recycled paper. © The Field Museum, 2012



Find this and other climate action tools at
climatechicago.feldmuseum.org

