School Greening Resources

10 Steps to Healthy, High Performance Schools – US Green Building Council MD Chapter & American Institute of Architects Baltimore

MAEOE Green Schools Awards Program
www.maeoe.org/green-schools links to successful City Schools applications www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/25709

Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards
www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/environment/

Center for Green Schools
www.centerforgreenschools.org/

Baltimore City Green Teams Transforming Schools
by New Lens Productions about how student-led environmental projects and advocacy are transforming our schools

Baltimore City Green Teams Speak Out by New Lens Productions showcases the work of students through the Challenge, in their own words: www.vimeo.com/68800599

Green Healthy Smart Challenge by Constellation Energy, demonstrating their commitment and involvement to green schools in Baltimore: www.youtube.com/watch?v=paFukLvYkv

Exploring and Helping the Environment at Herring Run Park, created by the City Schools’ Communications Office, follows Heritage High School students: www.vimeo.com/96725822

Videos about the work of green teams in Baltimore City:

City Schools’ Sustainability efforts, including the 21st Century Schools effort, the Green Leader AU, recycling, energy conservation, green cleaning, grant opportunities, and more www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability and www.baltimorecityschools.org/internal_sustainability

Recycling at City Schools, including downloadable signs, a how-to guide, links to three videos of school recycling efforts, and other resources www.baltimorecityschools.org/recycling

School gardening at City Schools, including guides to getting started, planting suggestions, harvesting and enjoying your bounty, funding opportunities, and more www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/27743

Successful web Green School Award www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/2996

Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge grant application – up to $2,500 for student-led greening projects from the City’s Office of Sustainability. www.baltimorecityschools.org/projects/green-schools-initiative/green-healthy-smart-challenge/

Energy Hub grant application – up to $1,000 for energy conservation effort from the Baltimore Energy Challenge www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/26114

Resources, partners, and programs in the Resource Guide for Going Green www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/26114

Why be a green school?
School and grounds can be used as tools for learning about literature, science, math, and the arts.
Impacts on the environment can be minimized through building design, construction, and operations.
Students can learn to create a sustainable city though daily green school practices and actions.
Green schools support Common Core, STEM, Next Generation Science, and Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards.
Integrating environmental literacy into school curricula has numerous academic, health, and social benefits for students and staff.
Become one of the growing number of Baltimore City Public Schools that have earned the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education’s Green School Award.
For more information: www.baltimorecityschools.org/greenschoolworkgroups/

Teachers are eligible to: receive up to two stipends of $750 to make their school green AND receive Green Leader Achievement Units (AU)

LEED Silver
All 21st Century Schools must achieve credits in these Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality.

GREEN SCHOOL WORKGROUPS
Schools receive support to form a Green School Workgroup of students, teachers, staff, parents, and partners who focus on greening and sustainability initiatives.

GREENING IDEAS MATRIX
Use the Green Schools Matrix for ideas for small and large greening and sustainability changes at your school.

City Schools Greening Resources
School Greening Resources

If you are interested in learning more about what’s happening to improve sustainability throughout City Schools, browse through some of the many websites providing information and resources.

21st Century School Buildings will be GREEN

Green 21st Century School Buildings

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21st Century School Buildings

Baltimore City Schools will be GREEN

For more information: www.baltimorecityschools.org/greenschoolworkgroups/

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www.baltimorecityschools.org
Green School Ideas Matrix

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Engage Students
Train Staff
LEED Certification
Encourage Environmental Literacy
Conserve Water
Learn How to Conserve Energy
Learn How to Reduce Waste and Recycle
Restore Habitat
Create Educational Schoolyards
Encourage Responsible Transportation
Create a Healthy School Environment
Strengthen Community Partnerships
Serve and Learn About Healthy Food
Prepare for Green Careers
Celebrate Your Success

Goal
Entire school undertakes sustainability goals, and students and staff bring home lessons learned

Idea 1
Form a green team of students, teachers, administrators, custodians, parents, community members
At least one teacher is the Green Leader for the school, and is receiving the Achievement Unit (AU) credits
Form a Green School Workgroup for students, staff, teachers, parents, and communities to give input to architecture team
Students engage in hands-on, meaningful outdoor learning
Post signs about water conservation, where our water comes from, and where our water goes
Hold power down days using only natural light as much as possible
Form recycling teams and establish roles of students, teachers, and custodians
Replace asphalt with grass, a rain garden, a butterfly garden, etc.
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Mark safe routes to school or students can walk or ride bikes
Institute a Cleaning for Health program with certified green cleaning products and practices, including custodians, teachers, and students
Families, neighborhood organizations, and volunteers help to create an inviting and educational schoolyard
Include nutrition education to all age groups in engaging ways, including cooking classes
Connect students to area initiatives at colleges, via student visits to colleges and vice versa
Organize a school-wide Earth Day celebration on or near April 22

Idea 2
Include sustainability activities and information in morning announcements, on Back To School Night, at Science Fairs, etc.
Make presentations at staff or department gatherings, invite guest speakers
Move beyond LEED point counting to encourage holistic design, construction, and operations
An interdisciplinary team of classroom and resource teachers meet regularly to implement environmental literacy
Report leaks immediately so they may be repaired
Students conduct an energy audit of their classroom or school to determine how much energy is being used
Compose food waste on-site of off-site
Start a beekeeping effort
Plant gardens for student learning
Create zones where cars and buses may not idle their engines for more than 3 minutes
Follow integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices so pests can’t get in and have nothing to feed on, thereby minimizing pesticides and invasives
Partner organization provides in-school environmental education
Start a garden club and/or grade-level gardens, to be living classrooms on ecology, nutrition, and more
Connect students to conferences and events to expose them to diverse green careers
Highlight achievements on school website, bulletin boards, and letters home to families

Idea 3
Hold grade-level or school-wide assemblies with performances and speakers about greening education and sustainability
Teachers and administrators attend formal and informal professional development sessions
Students incorporate green space in classroom and school construction
Students lead and present environmental action projects at their school or in their community, which are tied to LEED Certification
Students engage in activities about storm water runoff and its impact on watersheds, human health, and environmental health
Students use smart strip power cords, so that smart boards computer monitors and other appliances can be turned off easily
Install bird or bat boxes
Build an outdoor classroom where teachers may bring students
Create a bicycle club to encourage riding and bike repair
Promote fresh air by regularly cleaning vents and filters, eliminating clutter, and eliminating the use of products with strong odors electronically
Partnership organization provides off-site field trip or ongoing student environmental opportunities
Limit or eliminate unhealthy foods at school, at after-school opportunities, and in school fundraising
Expose students to internship and fellowship opportunities in local industries that integrate sustainability components
Give certificates of achievement to exemplary students, teachers and staff

Idea 4
Organize school and neighborhood litter clean-ups, tree plantings, and other neighborhood improvement projects
Outdoor and environmental education teaches students with learning differences, behavior concerns, and language barriers
Green Team gives tours to classmates and visitors about the green features at the school
Students act as stewards and advocates for environmental issues within their school grounds, homes and communities
Initiate tree-planting, rain gardens, and other green features
Take a field trip to a recycling facility
Students remove invasive plants from school grounds or nearby parks; students plant native trees, plants, and shrubs at school
Install natural play spaces, e.g., trees, fallen logs, etc.
Students go on walking field trips
Minimize use of disinfectant wipes, which are often not needed and can be harmful to children
Students make presentations to area community associations and businesses about sustainability
Develop community programming on food choices and nutrition, healthy cooking, and the impacts of healthy food and gardening on well-being
Students receive Career and Technology Education (CTE) curriculum that integrates environmental best practices
Award small prizes for winners of recycling, energy efficiency, or other environmental competitions

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