

# DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTALLY LITERATE STUDENTS

Students will learn about the natural environment of which they are a part and their role within it, and will take action to preserve and protect that environment.



Environmentally Literate Students



Healthy School Environments



Reduce & Conserve



School Green Spaces



Engagement



Student Leaders

## STRATEGY →

**Provide standards-based curriculum with integrated environmental literacy in science, social studies, English Language Arts, and math**

**Connect students to internships, service learning hours, industry certifications, credit programs, and fellowships**

**Provide professional development to teachers and staff**

**Connect schools to partners providing engaging environmental literacy experiences**

## ACTIONS →

- Provide input during curriculum review processes
- Embed one Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) for elementary, middle, and high school ages.

- Share partner opportunities with counselors and teachers
- Compile job, internship, and service learning opportunities for students

- Include environmental literacy in systemic professional development days
- Share curricula with partners for aligned professional development

- Connect partners and schools via Sustainability Ambassadors, Green Schools Network, City Schools' Bulletin Board, and leadership events
- Reach partners and schools via the Engagement Office

## METRICS →

- MWEEs in place
- Participation in curriculum reviews

- Service Learning guidelines shared with partners
- Students placed in environmental positions

- Teachers participating in systemic professional development
- Teachers participating in optional professional development

- Events and communications that include sustainability focus
- Updated Partner Resource Guide

## PARTNERS

Baltimore Ecosystem Study, Blue Water Baltimore, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, National Aquarium, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, & more

City Recreation & Parks, Civic Works, Forest Conservancy District Board, Mayor's Office of Employment and Development, NOAA, National Aquarium, Parks & People Foundation, & more

Baltimore Ecosystem Study, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Towson University, Notre Dame of Maryland University, & more

Green Schools Network

# HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

Schools will promote the well-being of students and staff and provide school spaces that are conducive to learning.



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## STRATEGY →

### Improve Integrated Pest Management practices

### Provide drinkable water at schools

### Provide optimal learning environments for students

### Use green cleaning products

## ACTIONS →

- Track pest-related work orders
- Provide pest-control resources for schools

- Provide safe drinking fountains at schools
- Recyclable cups at water coolers

- Provide good light, comfortable temperatures, and good air quality in schools

- Expand green cleaning products and practices
- Train custodial and maintenance staff annually

## METRICS →

- Pest-related work orders
- Educational materials created, shared, and used by schools

- Schools with safe water fountains
- Schools with coolers and recyclable cups

- Window replacement, heating/cooling, and roof projects completed

- Schools purchasing green cleaning products
- Charter schools and contract cleaners using green cleaning products

## PARTNERS

City Health Department, Maryland Pesticide Education Network, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Responsible Purchasing Network

## STRATEGY →

**Provide nutrition education and fresh fruits and vegetables (supports Wellness Policy)**

**Promote positive lunch-time climate (supports Wellness Policy)**

**Encourage daily physical activity by elementary and middle school students (supports Wellness Policy)**

## ACTIONS →

- Increase volume of fresh and local produce served
- Maximize number of students who visit Great Kids Farm
- Incorporate nutrition education into curriculum

- Promote Smarter Lunchroom practices

- Implement FitnessGram assessment for grades 3-8

## METRICS →

- Pounds of fresh and/or local produce served
- Students visiting Great Kids Farm
- Teachers and staff trained on nutrition

- Schools participating in lunchtime climate programs

- Schools using FitnessGram

## PARTNERS

Maryland Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

UMD Extension - Food Supplement Nutrition Education, MD State Department of Education

# REDUCE AND CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES



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City Schools will reduce its impact on the environment and save money by conserving energy and natural resources.

## STRATEGY →

**Monitor utility consumption**

**Conserve Energy**

**Purchase energy from renewable sources**

## ACTIONS →

- Maintain utility database
- Track utility use and billing

- Engage students through competitions
- Engage maintenance and custodial staff through annual training

- Retrofit high energy-use fixtures
- Include Building Automation Systems (BAS) at new schools and in heating/cooling retrofits

- Seek live energy data and access for every school
- Reduce energy use during high-cost times

- Research renewable energy technologies

## METRICS →

- Energy Use Index for each school
- Dollar amount of corrected billing errors

- Schools in annual competition
- Staff trained

- Fixture retrofits completed
- Schools with BAS and central office controls

- Schools with live energy data
- Reduced electricity demand charges

- Amount and percent of total electricity purchased from renewable sources

## PARTNERS

SchoolDude, City Department of Public Works

Baltimore Energy Challenge

Baltimore Gas & Electric, City of Baltimore, Maryland Energy Administration

Baltimore Gas & Electric

Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee, Maryland Energy Administration

## STRATEGY →

### Reduce solid waste

## ACTIONS →

- Reduce volume of trash through education and diversion
- Improve efficiency of trash collection

- Align cafeteria orders with meal participation
- Use compostable lunch trays

### Minimize fuel consumption in transportation

- Plan smart routes, minimize idling, and track buses using GPS
- Add alternative-fuel vehicles to the non-pupil transportation fleet

### Reduce impact of construction and renovation projects

- Follow green building standards on all new and retrofit projects
- Promote net zero energy goals

### Consider sustainability when awarding contracts

- Add sustainability questions to bid templates

## METRICS →

- Schools recycling
- Cost of trash collection
- Volume of items reused/swapped

- Electronic inventory and accountability
- Schools using compostable trays
- Schools composting

- Staff trained about idling
- Alternative fuel vehicles

- Schools with LEED certification
- New schools planning and/or achieving net zero energy

- Bids and contracts with sustainability criteria

## PARTNERS

City Department of Public Works, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap, BMoreScrap

City Office of Sustainability, Institute for Local Self Reliance

Clean Air Partners, Maryland Transportation Authority

Lorax, Maryland Energy Administration, US Green Building Council, US Department of Energy

Responsible Purchasing Network

# IMPROVE SCHOOL GREEN SPACES

Schools will encourage outdoor activity and learning, while also promoting good storm water management practices.



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## STRATEGY →

**Add nature play spaces, outdoor classrooms, and gardens to schoolyards**

**Improve stormwater management**

## ACTIONS →

- Install and maintain outdoor learning and activity spaces each year
- Train teachers about benefits of outdoor learning spaces

- Complete stormwater improvement projects each year
- Train Ground Shop employees about stormwater and outdoor learning spaces

## METRICS →

- Schools with outdoor learning spaces
- Teachers trained

- Stormwater management projects completed
- Staff trained

## PARTNERS

Blue Water Baltimore, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, REAL School Gardens, Chesapeake Bay Trust, University of Maryland Extension, and more

City Department of Public Works, Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education

# ENGAGE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Schools will engage their full community – including students, teachers, staff, families, and partners – to promote environmental education and reduce City Schools’ impact on the environment.



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## STRATEGY →

**Maintain robust Green Schools Network of partners**

**Build network of staff leading school-based sustainability efforts**

**Connect partners, families, and communities for school greening activities (supports Engagement Policy)**

**Support schools to get green certifications**

## ACTIONS →

- Utilize partners to offer activities, advocacy, and resources to schools
- Promote connections between partners and schools

- Support Sustainability Ambassadors and their Sustainability Plans
- Communicate with all staff about greening opportunities and benefits

- Add greening information to training tools for school-based and district-wide activities

- Promote and support schools seeking third-party certifications
- Promote green schools at leadership and teacher gatherings

## METRICS →

- Partners in Green Schools Network
- Communications with schools and partners

- School sustainability plans
- Annual survey of ambassadors

- Greening information included in training tools and events

- Schools with certifications

## PARTNERS

Green Schools Network

City Office of Sustainability

City Office of Sustainability, Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, National Wildlife Federation

# BUILD STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Encourage and support youth to be leaders on environmental issues through in-school and out-of-school opportunities.



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## STRATEGY →

**Assist schools to get grants for student-led green projects**

**Provide training and leadership opportunities**

**Connect students to internships, service learning hours, industry certifications, credit programs, & fellowships**

## ACTIONS →

- Share opportunities with schools
- Support schools submitting applications

- Connect students to trainings, speaking engagements, and advocacy efforts
- Encourage partners to hire students after school and during the summer

- Share partner opportunities with counselors and teachers
- Compile job, internship, and service learning opportunities for students

## METRICS →

- Schools with grants from the Office of Sustainability
- Schools with other funding

- Students involved in environmental training and advocacy

- Service Learning guidelines shared with partners
- Students placed in environmental positions

## PARTNERS

City Office of Sustainability, Baltimore Energy Challenge, Chesapeake Bay Trust, & more

City Office of Sustainability, National Aquarium, Civic Works, Recreation and Parks, Parks & People Foundation, Maryland Forestry Resource Board, & more

City Recreation & Parks, Civic Works, Forest Conservancy District Board, Mayor's Office of Employment and Development, NOAA, National Aquarium, Parks & People Foundation, & more