

# 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.

City Schools' Sustainability Plan, resources, partners, Green Leader AU, Sustainability Ambassadors, and more:

[www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability) and [www.baltimorecityschools.org/internal\\_sustainability](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/internal_sustainability)

Recycling at City Schools, including downloadable signs, a how-to guide, videos of school recycling efforts, and other resources:

[www.baltimorecityschools.org/recycling](http://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](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/27743)

Cleaning for Health at City Schools, including information and resources about green cleaning:

[www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/28443](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/28443)

Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge grant for student-led greening projects from the City's Office of Sustainability:

[www.baltimoresustainability.org/projects/green-schools-initiative/green-healthy-smart-challenge](http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/projects/green-schools-initiative/green-healthy-smart-challenge)

Energy Hub grant for energy conservation efforts from the Baltimore Energy Challenge:

[www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools)

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

[www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/5196/10%20Steps%20to%20Healthy%20High%20Performing%20Schools\\_USGBC\\_AIA.pdf](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/5196/10%20Steps%20to%20Healthy%20High%20Performing%20Schools_USGBC_AIA.pdf)

MAEOE Green Schools Awards Program and successful City Schools applications: [www.maeoe.org/green-schools-and-green-centers](http://www.maeoe.org/green-schools-and-green-centers)

Links to successful City Schools MAEOE applications: [www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/33541](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/33541)

Maryland Environmental Education: [www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/pages/environmental-education/index.aspx](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/pages/environmental-education/index.aspx)

Center for Green Schools: [www.centerforgreenschools.org](http://www.centerforgreenschools.org)

Green Schools National Network: [www.greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org](http://www.greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org)

## Videos about greening City Schools:

*Green Teams Transforming Schools* by New Lens Productions about student-led environmental projects and advocacy: [www.vimeo.com/148273417](http://www.vimeo.com/148273417)

*Baltimore City Green Teams Speak Out* by New Lens Productions showcases the work of students: [www.vimeo.com/68800599](http://www.vimeo.com/68800599)

Students Advocate to Ban Styrofoam in Baltimore City: [www.vimeo.com/263551181](http://www.vimeo.com/263551181)

6th Graders Explore Water Quality with the National Aquarium: [www.vimeo.com/270494804](http://www.vimeo.com/270494804)

Biology Classes Investigate the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: [www.vimeo.com/273753669](http://www.vimeo.com/273753669)



## BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Ideas for Going Green

### Why be a green school?

Schools 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 help create a sustainable city** through daily green school practices and actions.

**Green schools support** Common Core, STEM, Next Generation Science, College Career and Civic Life, 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.



### What our students are saying:

"People should think twice before they throw something away because you don't know **what else it can be used for!**"

"For heaven's sake, turn the lights off! We are wasting so much energy and money."

"Being able to see the **chickens be born and grow up** and then move outside was my favorite part of the year."

"My favorite part of the garden project was tasting the delicious herbs."

For more information:  
[www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability-plan](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability-plan)  
Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Green Schools Coordinator  
Baltimore City Public Schools | [jpi-sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:jpi-sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us) | 443-642-4542

**BALTIMORE CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



	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 understands school greening, and students and staff bring home lessons learned	Leadership and staff integrate environmental education and practices throughout the school	Certify the school under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building standard	Students are knowledgeable about and respectful toward the environment, and meet MD Environmental Literacy Standards	School knows the importance of clean water, knows how humans impact water quality, and uses waters carefully	School knows the importance of energy, understands there are different ways to generate energy, and uses energy carefully	School works to limit the amount of trash it creates, maximize the reuse of materials, and recycles as much as it can	School grounds include space that attracts welcomed plants, birds, and insects, and controls water flow during storms	School grounds include space for students that encourages physical fitness, environmental learning, and outdoor enjoyment	Minimize use of fossil fuels for getting to and from school	School is a comfortable temperature, has minimal air pollutants, and fosters occupant health and learning	Students are in the community and/or community members and organizations are in the school, working jointly on sustainability	Students are offered a range of healthy food, and learn about diet, nutrition and making healthy choices	High school students are familiar with the "green economy," including jobs and available training	Small groups, specific classes, and/or the entire school celebrates sustainable successes
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 Achievement Unit (AU) credits	Form a Green School Workgroup for students, staff, teachers, parents and community 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 team and establish roles of students, teachers, and custodians	Replace asphalt with grass, a rain garden, a butterfly garden, etc.	Replace asphalt with grass, a rain garden, a butterfly garden, etc.	Mark safe routes to school so 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	Compost food waste on-site or off-site	Start a beekeeping effort	Plant gardens and learn how food gets from farm to table	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 insecticides	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 and sustainability	Teachers and administrators attend formal and informal professional development sessions	Incorporate ways for the school building and grounds to be used as environmental teaching tools	Students lead and present environmental action projects at their school or in their community, which are tied to Service Learning	Students engage in activities about storm water runoff and its impact on watersheds, humans, and environmental health	Use smart strip power cords, so that smart boards, computer monitors and other appliances can be turned off easily	Reduce paper waste, e.g., print double-sided, share information with staff and families electronically	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	Partner organization provides off-site field trip or ongoing student learning opportunities	Limit or eliminate unhealthy foods at school, at afterschool events, and as fundraisers	Expose students to internship and fellowship opportunities in local industries that have 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 ed reaches 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 schools, homes and communities	Install low-flow toilets, urinals and faucets	Participate in school based or district based energy reduction competitions	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, felled 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 efforts	Develop community programming on food choices and nutrition, healthy cooking, and the impacts of healthy food and gardening on well-being	Integrate environmental best practices into Career and Technology Education (CTE) curriculum.	Award small prizes for winners of recycling, energy or other environmental competitions