School Greening Resources

If you’re 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 and
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

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

Cleaning for Health at City Schools, including information and resources about green cleaning:
www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/28443

Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge grant for student-led greening projects from the City’s Office of Sustainability:
www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools

Energy Hub grant for energy conservation efforts from the Baltimore Energy Challenge:
www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools

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

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

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 Civics 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.

MAEOE Green Schools Awards Program and successful City Schools applications:
www.maeoe.org/green-schools-and-green-centers

Links to successful City Schools MAEOE applications:
www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/33541

Maryland Environmental Education:

Center for Green Schools:
www.centerforgreenschools.org

Green Schools National Network:
www.greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org

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.”

Videos about greening City Schools:

Green Teams Transforming Schools by New Lens Productions about student-led environmental projects and advocacy:
www.vimeo.com/148273417

Baltimore City Green Teams Speak Out by New Lens Productions showcases the work of students:
www.vimeo.com/68800599

Students Advocate to Ban Styrofoam in Baltimore City:
www.vimeo.com/263551181

6th Graders Explore Water Quality with the National Aquarium:
www.vimeo.com/270494804

Biology Classes Investigate the Chesapeake Bay Watershed:
www.vimeo.com/273753669

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Baltimore City Public Schools

Ideas for Going Green

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Baltimore City Public Schools

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Teachers are eligible to receive Green Leader Achievement Units (AU)!
### Green School Ideas Matrix

For more info: Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Green Schools Coordinator jpi-sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us (443) 642-4542

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>LEED Certification</th>
<th>Encourage Environmental Literacy</th>
<th>Conserve Water</th>
<th>Learn How to Conserve Energy</th>
<th>Learn How to Reduce Waste and Recycle</th>
<th>Restore Habitat</th>
<th>Create Educational Schoolyards</th>
<th>Encourage Responsible Transportation</th>
<th>Create a Healthy School Environment</th>
<th>Strengthen Community Partnerships</th>
<th>Serve and Learn About Healthy Food</th>
<th>Prepare for Green Careers</th>
<th>Celebrate Your Successes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engage Students</td>
<td><strong>Leadership and Staff Integration</strong></td>
<td><strong>School-wide engagement in school-wide educational and community affairs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Community engagement</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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#### Idea 1

**Form a green team of students, teachers, administrators, custodians, parents, community members**

- At least one teacher is the Green Lead for the school, and is receiving Achievement Unit (AU) credits.
- A Green School Workgroup for students, teachers, parents, and community to give input to architecture team forms.
- Post signs about water conservation, where your water goes from, and where your 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**Make presentations at city department gatherings, invite guest speakers**

- Make presentations at city department gatherings, invite guest speakers.
- Move beyond LEED point counting to encourage holistic design, construction, and operations.
- An interdisciplinary team of citizens and resource teachers meets 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 of 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.
- Folks Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices so pests can get in and leave nothing to feed on, thereby minimizing pesticides and irritants.
- Partner organization provides in-school environmental education.
- Start a garden club and/or grade-level garden to growing 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 home to families.

#### Idea 2

**Include sustainability activities in morning announcements, on Back To School Night, at Science Night, etc.**

- 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 in or through 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 simple storm power tools, 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 dust, and eliminating the use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals.
- Partner organization provides off-site field trip or ongoing student learning opportunities.
- Limit or eliminate unhealthy foods at school, at the afterschool program, and in the community.
- Develop and/or implement sustainability initiatives in schools, that have sustainability components.
- Award small prizes for winners of recycling, energy saving or other environmental competitions.

#### Idea 3

**Organize school and neighborhood litter clean-ups, tree plantings, and other neighborhood improvement projects**

- Outdoor and environmental education teachers visit classrooms and discuss the green features of the school.
- School teams 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 waste and pollution reduction programs.
- Students remove invasive plants from school grounds or nearby parks; students plant native trees, shrubs and plants 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 organizations about food choices and nutrition, healthy cooking, and the impacts of healthy food on gardening on well-being.
- Develop educational best practices into Career and Technology Education (CTE) curriculum.
- Integrate environmental best practices into Career and Technology Education (CTE) curriculum.
- Award small prizes for winners of recycling, energy saving or other environmental competitions.

#### Idea 4

**Support and encourage school and home gardening and sustainable practices throughout the school.**

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