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MAEOE's Maryland Green School Program Wins Governor's Smart Green and Growing Award

JESSUP: Governor O'Malley presented the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) the Smart Green and Growing Award in the category of Youth Education and Awareness for its pioneering, nationally recognized and replicated Maryland Green School Program. Bronwyn Mitchell, MAEOE's Executive Director, accepted the award at the 2010 Maryland Green School Youth Summit where nearly 2,000 students and educators gathered at Sandy Point State Park to celebrate and honor the achievements of 78 newest Maryland Green Schools. Said Bronwyn Mitchell, Executive Director, "I accept this award on behalf of MAEOE, but I dedicate the award to you – all existing Maryland Green Schools and all of the Maryland Green Schools of tomorrow because:

- When a school reduces its carbon footprint – Maryland benefits.
- When a school installs rain gardens and rain barrels to reduce stormwater runoff – Maryland benefits.
- When a school restores a wetland, plants a forest, or meadow – Maryland benefits.
- When a school decreases the pollutant load on local streams – Maryland benefits.
- When a school reduces the volume of solid waste – Maryland benefits."

Since the program began in 1999, 342 or 16% of Maryland public and private schools have been certified as Maryland Green Schools. These schools model authentic site-based environmental education and demonstrate a significant commitment to restore, enhance, and protect Maryland's natural environment. Maryland Green Schools create a compelling culture of learning that engages and empowers youth to take an active role in shaping the future as it emerges.

For more information about how to get your school involved, visit www.maeoe.org.