

MARYLAND SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS WEEK



MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 HEALTHY INDOOR AIR

**Healthy air.
Healthy students.
Stronger learning.**

Healthy indoor environments support comfort, wellness, attendance, and learning. Spotlight the work your schools are doing through ventilation upgrades, **HVAC maintenance**, filtration, moisture control, and indoor-air monitoring.

Electrifying school buildings with efficient technologies like heat pumps can also improve indoor air quality and comfort while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.



MARYLAND SPOTLIGHT

Maryland's school decarbonization investments include high-efficiency, fully electric HVAC upgrades, including projects at Snow Hill Elementary, Boonsboro High, and Baltimore City schools, linking cleaner building systems with healthier learning environments.



SHARE YOUR LEA STORY

HVAC, ventilation, or controls upgrades
Indoor air-quality monitoring
Filter replacement and preventive maintenance
Student learning about healthy buildings



Healthy schools start with the air we share.

702 Maryland Green Schools • 36 Newly Certified • 24 Local Education Agencies

Your district's story matters. Celebrate sustainable infrastructure and operations • Connect district investments with classroom learning • Engage students • Recognize staff and partners
• Share photos, stories and data.

Presented by the Outdoor Learning Partnership Sustainable Schools Working Group

October 12–16, 2026

MARYLAND SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS WEEK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13



TRANSPORTATION & ELECTRIFICATION

Cleaner rides,
Brighter futures.

Electric school buses and charging infrastructure can reduce diesel pollution around schools while introducing students to clean-energy technology and career pathways.

MARYLAND SPOTLIGHT

In August 2025, Maryland announced funding that included \$1.5 million for five electric school buses serving Anne Arundel County Public Schools, projected to reduce more than 800 metric tons of greenhouse-gas emissions over the buses' lifetimes.

Maryland's FY2025 electric-school bus grants supported 53 buses, 40 chargers, fleet transition planning, and technician training across districts and providers.

SHARE YOUR LEA STORY

- ✓ Electric buses or fleet transition plans
- ✓ Charging infrastructure
- ✓ Anti-idling efforts
- ✓ Student engagement with EV and clean-transportation careers



Every cleaner ride helps clear the air around our schools.

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Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 FOOD WASTE & RECYCLING



**Waste less.
Learn more.
Grow change.**

Cafeterias are powerful places for practical sustainability. Food waste prevention, recycling, composting, and share tables can turn everyday choices into meaningful environmental action.



MARYLAND SPOTLIGHT



Maryland's Food Waste Policy, statute §9-1724.1.2022 to reduce wasted food and compost pre- and post-consumer materials.

This Maryland law requires certain large food residual generators, including qualifying schools, to divert food residues from disposal when they meet generation and proximity thresholds.

LUNCH TRAY TO LEARNING



Student-led waste audits



Cafeteria recycling stations



Share tables and food-rescue partnerships

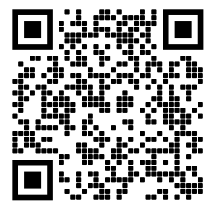


On-site or off-site composting



School gardens using compost

SHARE YOUR LEA STORY



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Connect district share staff and partners

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Maryland State Department of Education

Smart operations power sustainable schools.

Everyday decisions about lighting, HVAC, building controls, maintenance, and equipment can lower costs, improve performance, reduce emissions, and create healthier spaces.



(Energy Kiosk, Wild Lake Middle School, Howard County)



MARYLAND SPOTLIGHT

Maryland's Decarbonizing Public Schools Program supports LEAs with energy-data management, efficiency improvements, solar installations, and planning for high-performance schools. The FY2026 program made approximately \$36 million available for these efforts.

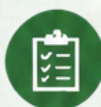


EXAMPLES ACROSS MARYLAND

Building automation controls at Corkran Middle School • Electric heat pumps upgrades at the Cecil County School of Technology • Ground-source heat pumps at Park Heights Academy.



Behind-the-scenes work creates front-row benefits for students.



SHARE YOUR LEA STORY



- ✓ LED lighting retrofit
- ✓ Building automation and energy management
- ✓ Preventive-maintenance programs
- ✓ HVAC modernization
- ✓ Water, energy, and waste audits

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

ENERGY & NET ZERO SCHOOLS

Maryland Energy Administration

Electrifying school buildings with efficient technologies like heat pumps can also improve indoor air quality and comfort while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Together, we can invest in healthier schools today while building a cleaner, more sustainable future for generations to come.



Holabird Middle School, Baltimore County Public Schools



MARYLAND SPOTLIGHT

Maryland is investing in net-zero school projects statewide. In FY2026, Worcester County received support for a geothermal system at Berlin Intermediate School; Prince George's County received support for water-source heat pumps at Hyattville Elementary. 100% of Brandywine Elementary: Queen Anne's County received support for net zero work at Centreville Middle School.



Seven design-development submissions over the past five years included solar technologies, and 12 facilities currently utilize ground-source heat pumps or solar technologies.



SHARE YOUR LEA STORY

- Solar arrays and energy dashboards
- Geothermal or ground-source heat pumps
- Net-zero design planning Student energy teams
- Energy-saving achievements and utility-cost reductions



Our schools are our community gathering places where students learn, families connect, communities come together, and neighbors can turn in times of need.

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