

Baltimore County Public Schools



Maryland Green School Awards Program

Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Baltimore County's public school buildings and landscapes, nestled in small neighborhoods throughout the County, are highly visible and frequently visited by the citizens and families in the community. Encompassing 3,215 acres, these landscapes have the potential to play a significant role in environmental education, water quality awareness, pollution prevention, conservation best practices, and community stewardship. Each year, an increasing number of Baltimore County schools are becoming Green Schools. Teachers are using their school's local setting (and watershed) as a context for learning, while engaging students in authentic educational experiences that are memorable and result in improved student test performance. Green School students enjoy coming to school which results in fewer discipline problems and less vandalism.

The Maryland Green School Award Program recognizes and celebrates Maryland schools that use the school site and the community to prepare students to understand and act on current and future environmental challenges. The program uses the environment as a framework for integrating math, science, reading, writing, social studies, and the arts as part of the regular curriculum. Students implement environmentally sound projects of their own design on their school grounds and within their community.

Program Summary

What it is:

Since 1999, the [Maryland Green School Awards Program](#), administered by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), has recognized Maryland's public and private pre K -12 schools that:

- Use their school site and curriculum to prepare students to understand and act on current and future environmental challenges facing all Marylanders.
- Model environmental best management practices (BMPs) in building and landscape design, maintenance, and operation.

- Build and maintain partnerships with the local community to enhance environmental learning and to design and implement projects and programs that result in a healthier environment.

Who is eligible:

- All Maryland Pre K-12 schools, public and private.

What is required: In accordance with stated program requirements, a school must document activities accomplished over a 2 year period (ending on June 1st of the year the application is submitted). Applications are available online at www.maeoe.org

Major components of the application include:

- A one-page cover sheet and a one-page concise summary
- A short description (one-page maximum) followed by documentation of the following requirements:
 - Integration of environmental issue instruction
 - Professional development
 - Celebration
 - Demonstration of selected conservation best management practices (BMPs)
 - Sustained school-community partnerships to enhance environmental learning

When are applications accepted: Applications are non-competitive and are accepted each year in the spring. Newly recognized **Maryland Green Schools** and **Maryland Green Centers** are announced in late spring. An award ceremony and reception are held in late May or early June.

What are the incentives and rewards:

- **Maryland Green School** flag, banner, bumper sticker
- Statewide and local recognition
- Visibility as a model for other schools and for the local neighborhood
- Gift baskets
- Free gift of a native Maryland tree from the MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Tree-Mendous MD “Gift of Tree” Program
- 1:1 match on future Tree-Mendous tree orders through the MD DNR
- Books and resources for your class or school library
- Opportunity to present at the annual MAEOE conference
- Opportunity for waived conference fees at MAEOE
- Upon renewal of GS status: Statewide and local recognition, cash award, plaque, other gifts

When must a school or center re-apply: **Maryland Green School** and **Maryland Green Center** status must be renewed every 3 years by submitting a short description/documentation of ongoing **Green School** or **Green Center** activities.

Program contacts:

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Sponsors: Constellation Energy; Recreational Equipment, Inc.; Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve-MD and Tree-mendous MD; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



For more information: Visit the MAEOE website:
www.maeoe.org

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