

BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM

Chesapeake Bay Program



Sustainable Schools - 2023-2024

Long-term Target: Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the impact of their buildings and grounds on their local watershed, environment and human health through best practices, including student-led protection and restoration projects.

Two-year Target: n/a

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
<i>What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?</i>	<i>What current efforts are addressing this factor?</i>	<i>What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?</i>	<i>What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?</i>	<i>Do we have a measure of progress? How do we know if we have achieved the intended result?</i>	<i>How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?</i>	<i>What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?</i>
State education agency leadership: High level support for environmental literacy from state departments of education that is communicated to school districts is critical to establish sustainable schools as a priority. These agencies are also important for establishing supportive policies	Convening of state-level leaders to increase dialog and internal connections.	Missing contacts; need sustained engagement	1.1, 2.2	No.	By convening state-level sustainable school meetings and seeking additional funding we expect more sustained engagement from state education agency leadership.	

and identifying funding streams.						
State agency and partner coordination: Sustainable schools implementation requires the support of many state and local partners who often are the professionals working to identify and install best management practices, conduct teacher professional development, and support student programming	Convening of state-level leaders to increase dialog and internal connections	Missing contacts; need engagement	1.1, 1.2	No. We can document the number of partners participating at both the state and regional level.	We expect more coordination between partners and state education agencies by convening sustainable school meetings, identifying additional funding and supporting development and dissemination of school sustainability actions.	
School district implementation: Education is primarily controlled by local school districts (600+ in the region), each with their own leadership and management structure. With the exception of state laws and regulations, education priorities are largely determined at the local level and may not mirror state priorities.	Providing and promoting sustainable schools information to school districts, which includes a wide array of benefits; supporting BMP projects that tie to the educational component of curriculum.	Competing priorities, unknown effects of COVID-19; grant/technical assistance opportunities	2.1, 2.2., 2.3	Yes. Question in ELIT survey.	We expect more school district implementation of sustainable school practices by supporting the implementation of BMP implementation on school grounds, the creation of healthy learning environments in response to COVID-19 and disseminating information about the relationship between sustainable schools and benefits like student achievement and cost-savings.	
National leadership: The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools	Collect successful program models and promote participation;		1.1, 1.3	No. We can document the investment of US ED in the region and the number of	We expect increased participation through the collection of successful sustainable	

Program has organized the thinking and incentivized the development of sustainable schools across the region	collaborate with US DOE			regional schools competing for US Green Ribbon School certification.	school models, convening state-level meetings and sharing information about successful programs.	
Funding and staff resources: A major limiting factor is funding, including support for best management practices, student projects, program staffing, and teacher professional development.	Coordinate across GITs to better align efforts; Better integrate a holistic approach across the school staff structure	Competing priorities; lack of grants/technical assistance; “silos”	1.3	No. This data will need to be collected.	By increasing the number of professionals engaged in sustainable school efforts at the state level and connecting with other CBP Workgroups we expect to increase the capacity of the sustainable school work.	

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY: 2023-2024 SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS WORK PLAN ACTIONS							
OUTCOME: Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the impact of their buildings and grounds on their local watershed, environment and human health through best practices, including student-led protection and restoration projects.							
Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline	Partner organizations	Lead Workgroup Member
Management Approach 1: Strengthen and expand a Mid-Atlantic sustainable schools community of practice that includes state certification and recognition programs, and partners who support school efforts.							
1.1	Increase, diversify, and strengthen the network of partners engaged in supporting and facilitating sustainable schools efforts.						
		Find a replacement for the vacant Education Workgroup Sustainable Schools lead and consider opportunities to integrate this work effectively within the workgroup.	Education WG	Regional	2023	NOAA, EPA, NPS	Britt Slattery, Shannon Sprague
		Convene state sustainable schools programs to document priorities and identify opportunities to collaborate.	Education WG	Regional	2023-24		TBD new Sust. Schools lead
		Explore potential of creating a subgroup within the (DC) Environmental Literacy Advisory Committee to focus on sustainable schools.	OSSE	DC	2023	DGS, DCPS	Grace Manubay
		Reestablish the Sustainable Schools subgroup of MD Project Green Classrooms. Recruit diverse partners that represent the 3 Pillars of the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. Consider using relationships formed in the Maryland Environmental Literacy Advisory Network (MELAN) to identify new partnerships.	PGC	MD	2023	MD DNR, MAEOE	Sandi Olek
		Convene DE E-LIT and BWET communities of practice to facilitate partnerships with school districts in support of sustainable schools initiatives.	DESG	DE	2022-2023	DAEE, DNS, DOE	David Christopher
		DAEE Outdoor Learning Network (Community of Practice) tours of outdoor classrooms	DAEE	DE	2022-2023	DAEE	David Christopher
		Launch and populate DAEE Outdoor Learning Spaces Storymap	DAEE	DE	2023	DAEE	David Christopher
		Infuse current ELIT work with an intentional focus on introducing sustainability programs and concepts to schools in the environmental justice area, and identify current or potential Green Ribbon Schools partner schools who are willing to serve as mentors.	PDE	PA Statewide with a focus on EJ, Title 1, ESSA Tier and other underserved school communities	January 2024	PA Green and Healthy School Partnership, PA	Tamara Pepper

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		Engage DEP Environmental Justice Office and Environmental Justice Advisory Board members in PA ELIT network and PA Green and Healthy Schools Partnership.	PDE, PA DEP EJ Office, DOH, PA ACEE	PA Statewide with a focus on EJ, Title 1, ESSA Tier and other underserved school communities	Ongoing	PDE, PA DEP EJ Office, DOH, PA ACEE, PA Green and Healthy Schools Partnership. IPM (Extension)	Tamara Peffer
1.2	Share successes, best practices, and resources to strengthen programs and encourage alignment with high-quality, recognized criteria such as the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program.						
		Plan and convene an annual or biennial meeting of a regional sustainable schools community of practice to share best practices, resources, gaps and potential solutions to increase, diversify and strengthen the network of partners engaged in supporting, promoting and facilitating sustainable schools efforts, and to strengthen programs and encourage alignment with high-quality recognized criteria.	Education WG	Regional	2024		TBD new Sust. Schools lead
		Expand a web presence such as Bay Backpack to host best practices, examples, success stories, etc. resulting from the above annual convening.	Education WG	Regional	2024		TBD new Sust. Schools lead
		Integrate recognition into Growing Healthy Schools Month promotion and awards ceremony.	OSSE	DC	Sept-Nov (annual)	DGS	Grace Manubay
		Continue working with Building United (BU) to support sustainable Schools.	DDOE and BU	DE	2023	DDOE/BU	Tonyea Mead
		Continue facilitating funding to support sustainable schools through EE grants, so more schools can participate.	DDOE and DFSME	DE	on going	DDOE/DFSME	Tonyea Mead
		Share CRSD's work to develop green school system as a model for other DE schools through the CRSD ELitCoP.	CRSD	DE	on going	DDOE	Todd Klawinski
		Disseminate information around the Green Ribbon Schools program.	PGC	MD	2023-2024	MD DNR, MAEOE	Sandi Olek
		Design and pilot Pathways to Green Schools Mentor Program and support materials to share successes and adaptive techniques.	PDE, PAGRS, PAACEE	PA	January 2024		Tamara Peffer, Bert Myers, Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, Donnan Stoicovy

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		Display completed environmental literacy plans and green ribbon school awardees via web pages such as PDE PA Pathways to Green Schools and PA Gateway to Green.	PDE, Stroud Water Reserach Center	PA	Ongoing		Tamara Peffer, Steve Kerlin, Bert Myers
		Communicate information and share winning applications exemplars for Virginia Naturally and the USDOE Green Ribbon School and Sustainable Divisions programs.	VDOE, DWR	VA	Annually	VSELA	Anne Petersen
1.3	Identify, evaluate and promote opportunities to support sustainable school efforts, including funding related to the new U.S. Department of Education Action Plan for Building Better School Infrastructure.						
		Digest and formulate guidance on the Building Better School Infrastructure/ new office of sustainability and distribute to the states.	Education WG	Regional	2024	USED, USFS, EPA	TBD new Sust. Schools lead
		Collect and provide updated information on funding opportunities in one accessible spot (such as Bay Backpack) and provide regular communications to draw partners to the resource hub.	Education WG	Regional	2024	CBT, EPA	TBD new Sust. Schools lead
		Continue work with Pennsylvania Green Schools Partnership and PA Advisory Council on Environmental Education to evaluate sustained or new efforts at existing green ribbon schools; distribute first annual feedback survey.	PA PDE, DEP, PA ACEE AND PAGSP	PA	Ongoing/March 2023 and annually there after	PA DEP/PDE	Bert Myers, Tamara Peffer, Michelle Naccarati-Chap kis
		Continue to offer the PA DEP Environmental Protection EE Grant Program, PA Pathways to Green Schools, Youth Ag programs to fund development of sustainable school programs throughout PA.	PA DEP/PDE/PDA	PA	Ongoing	PA DEP/PDE	Bert Myers, Tamara Peffer
Management Approach 2: Disseminate sustainable schools information and resources to school districts and schools to support their sustainability efforts and better connect those efforts to curriculum and student outcomes.							
2.1	Create an easy-to-understand pathway for schools to engage in increasingly sophisticated sustainability efforts and programs that begins with learning in the outdoors and culminates in sustainable schools certifications and MWEEs.						
		Develop an easy reference such as an infographic on the pathway to becoming a sustainable schools -- to clarify how to become certified and the relationship between state/ federal recognition. Determine best means to provide this, such as through Bay Backpack, websites for state and federal partners with recognition programs, and other communications.	Education WG	Regional	2024		TBD new Sust. Schools lead

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		Promote Capital LEAF program by hosting a webinar.	OSSE	DC	2023		Grace Manubay
		Communicate state and national sustainable school awards programs through DDOE Science Schoology pages and to teachers directly.	DDOE	DE	ongoing	Building United	Tonyea Mead
		U.S. Green Ribbon Schools Program/Winners posted and promoted on DDOE Website.	DDOE	DE	ongoing		Tonyea Mead
		The MD Green Schools program will assess needs for new resources for the education community that will contribute to the pathway from early onramp activities to more sophisticated; and use the annual process of reporting on Green Schools awards/ progress as a means to showcase the range of efforts as examples for other schools.	MAEOE	MD	Annually	MAEOE, MD PGC, NOAA	Laura Collard
		Continue to implement and adapt the newly redesigned PA Pathways to Green Schools award program (feeder to US DOE Green Ribbon Schools); support materials include the PA LEA/School Environmental Literacy Plan as well as components related to the State Mandated IPM Manual for Schools, EJA, and MWEE based exploration through spatial tools such as DEP EJ/Env Issue mapping software.	PDE, PAGRS, PAACEE	PA	January 2024		Tamara Peffer, Bert Meyers, Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, Donnan Stoicovy
		Support Virginia Naturally Program through communicating information to schools and providing application support, as requested.	DWR	VA	Annually	VDOE, VRUEC, VAEE, VSELA, state natural resource organizations	Courtney Hallacher
2.2	Collect and communicate the benefits of sustainable schools, with an emphasis on physical and mental health, through case studies, best practices, and student outcomes for sustainable schools.						
		Assure that resource materials include an emphasis on outdoor learning (Bay Backpack, school district Environmental Literacy planning toolkit, etc.).	Education WG	Regional		NOAA, Workgroup state reps	Shannon Sprague/ Elise Trelegan
		Post information on sustainable schools impact on student (and teacher) learning as well as physical and mental health, on DDOE Science webpage.	DDOE	DE	ongoing		Tonyea Mead
		Convene partner organizations and advisory members of MD Project Green Classrooms to explore the relationship between the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and sustainable schools efforts.	PGC	MD	2023 - 2024	MD DNR, MAEOE	Sandi Olek, DNR

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		Outreach to collect exemplar sustainability programs and plans within PA's LEAs and NGO facilities, as related to sustainable school and environmental literacy plan development, to publish within the PDE Pathways to Green Schools web page, PDE SAS system, and PA Gateway To Green.	PDE, PA ACEE, PA	PA - Statewide	Ongoing	PA DEP/DCNR/PDE - PA IU Network	Tamara Peffer, Steve Kelrin, Bert Myers
		Provide cohesive sites with information on sustainable schools, physical health, and sustainable schools -- for schools and school divisions.	VDOE	VA (Website)	ongoing	VSELA	Petersen
2.3	Promote and strengthen Bay Backpack and state resources to support projects at schools that increase outdoor time, benefit student health, and meet curriculum objectives						
		Develop/provide information and resource materials specific to sustainable schools practices, to be included in the Environmental Literacy school district planning resource ("Toolkit").	Education WG	Regional	2023	Sustainable Schools team (subset of CBP Education WG)	Britt Slattery, NPS (temporary)/ TBD new Sust Schools lead
		Update Capital LEAF resources on the OSSE website.	OSSE	DC	2023		Grace Manubay
		Update Bay Backpack with DE and PA Resources.	DOE, PA ELit Network	DE, PA	ongoing	DESG, DAEE, DOE, DNREC/Parks; PA ELit Network	DOE; Tamara Peffer PA
		Promote use of PA LEA/ELIT Template -- contains direct connections to MWEE & Green Ribbon Schools resources as well as Bay Backpack, and highlights CBWA ELIT Goals.	PA ELit Network	PA	Ongoing	PA DEP/PDE/PA IU STEM &TAC Networks	Tamara Peffer, Demetrius Roberts, Steve Kerlin, Bert Myers
		Increase resources available to educators through #GoOpenVA and organizational and state webpages.	VDOE, VAEE, VRUEC	VA	ongoing	State agencies, VRUEC	Petersen, Myrick, Lutzow-Felling