



NEWS RELEASE

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Clean Green 15 partnership awards \$24,500 to 19 BCPS schools for keeping schools and county clean and green

Friday's celebration also kicks off the 2022-23 competition

TOWSON, MD — Following a year that saw more cleanup events than ever before, the Team BCPS Clean Green 15 Litter Challenge today celebrated the efforts of scores of Baltimore County students, schools, and community volunteers whose combined anti-litter efforts helped to beautify and keep clean their schools and neighborhoods.

The following awards were presented:

Grand Prize Awards (\$3,000)

Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts (*for cleanup results*)
Colgate Elementary School (*for number of volunteers*)

Special School Award (\$1,500)

Battle Monument School

1st Place School Awards (\$2,000)

Dulaney High School
Ridgely Middle School
Charlesmont Elementary School

2nd Place School Awards (\$1,500)

Franklin High School
Perry Hall Middle School
Hebbsville Elementary School

3rd Place School Awards (\$1,000)

Sparrows Point High School
Arbutus Middle School

Cromwell Valley Elementary Magnet School

Honorable Mention Awards (\$500)

Bear Creek Elementary School
Golden Ring Middle School
Church Lane Technology Elementary School
Carney Elementary School
Grange Elementary School
Rodgers Forge Elementary School
Seven Oaks Elementary School

The annual Clean Green 15 competition challenges schools and volunteers to engage in quick, 15-minute local litter clean-up events. As a result of the program's record-breaking 456 cleanups since last spring, 19 BCPS schools earned grant awards of between \$3,000 and \$500 to support school-based environmental projects and STEM resources.

The cleanups, held throughout the year by 5,211 students, school staffs, volunteers, and community partners, collected 2,579 bags of litter and removed 30,000 pounds of trash before it could wash into waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. Sixty-three BCPS schools participated in this year's challenge.

"Every year, Baltimore County's school students and community partners show how much they care about their schools, their neighborhoods, and their world by participating in the Clean Green 15 initiative," said Dr. Michael Zarchin, chief of schools for BCPS. "It is beyond impressive to see the results of their work and stewardship; together, they, their teachers, and schools have made a big difference in keeping Baltimore County clean, green, and healthy."

Zarchin joined Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski at a celebration of the program at Colgate Elementary School in Dundalk on Friday, congratulating the winning schools and helping to kick off a new year of Clean Green competition among county schools.

"It is so exciting to see the environment be a priority for our young people, and I am grateful for the hard work our volunteers put in to make Baltimore County cleaner and greener," said Olszewski. "The more than \$24,000 in prize funds awarded to schools for STEM and environmental projects are sure to have a lasting impact on students for years to come."

Debbie Phelps, executive director of The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, led the applause for school staff, students, and supporters who completed the clean-ups. Funding this

year's program – now finishing its ninth year – were BGE and the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability.

The program is open to any group, including school-based groups, places of worship, youth groups, civic or community groups, scout troops, sport teams, businesses, or other organizations, that wishes to help clean up their community. Groups are asked to report their clean-ups online and designate a school to receive credit toward the grant competition.

Team BCPS Clean Green 15 is a collaboration of the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability, BCPS, and The Education Foundation of BCPS.

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).