



NEWS RELEASE

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Watershed Public Charter School certified as a Maryland Green School, five BCPS schools recertified

Two schools achieve “sustainable” status for long-term involvement in program

Towson, MD – Watershed Public Charter School has been named a Maryland Green School and five Baltimore County public schools have been recertified as Green Schools by the [Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education](#) (MAEOE).

Watershed was one of 11 schools across Maryland to become certified this year, bringing the total number of [BCPS Maryland Green Schools](#) to 68. Among the 47 schools in Maryland recertifying as Green Schools in 2021 were Lyons Mill Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Prettyboy Elementary, Sparrows Point High, and Sparrows Point Middle.

Pinewood Elementary and Prettyboy Elementary were among the 12 Maryland schools achieving “sustainable” Maryland Green Schools status in 2021 for participation in the program for 14 years.

Founded in 1999, the Maryland Green Schools Program seeks to enrich education by integrating hands-on, inquiry-based instruction to empower youth to reduce ecological impact and encourage sustainable practices at school, home, and in their communities. As schools recertify every four years, they continue to integrate and reinforce the lessons.

In a year during which most students attended virtual classes or had limited access to school buildings and school grounds, the 2020/21 Maryland Green Schools have achieved remarkable environmental accomplishments. They have saved 36,369 gallons of water; reduced energy use by 7,297,118 kwh; prevented waste from going to a landfill by recycling 721,449 pounds of material; created 16,070 square

feet of natural habitat; planted 1,347 native plants, including shrubs and trees; cleaned 38,470 square feet of streambanks to protect water quality; and installed 81 new outdoor classrooms.

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland Green Schools students have reported spending time with their families recycling, planting vegetables and native plants, and being more mindful of turning off unnecessary lights.

MAEOE and the Maryland Green School community will celebrate virtually in May and June to recognize awardees.

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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](#).