

Building Student Environmental Leadership for a Greener School System

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Baltimore Office of Sustainability**



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of Sustainability**
People • Planet • Prosperity



Baltimore Office of Sustainability

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The **Office of Sustainability** develops and advocates for programs, policies and actions by government, citizens, businesses, and institutions that improve the long-term environmental, social, and economic viability of Baltimore City.

Baltimore Sustainability Plan

1. Cleanliness
2. Pollution Prevention
3. Resource Conservation
4. Greening
5. Transportation
6. Education & Awareness
7. Green Economy

29 Goals

131 Strategies



Education & Awareness Goals

1. Turn every school in Baltimore City into a green school
2. Ensure all city youth have access to environmental stewardship programs and information
3. Raise the environmental awareness of the Baltimore community
4. Expand access to informational resources on sustainability





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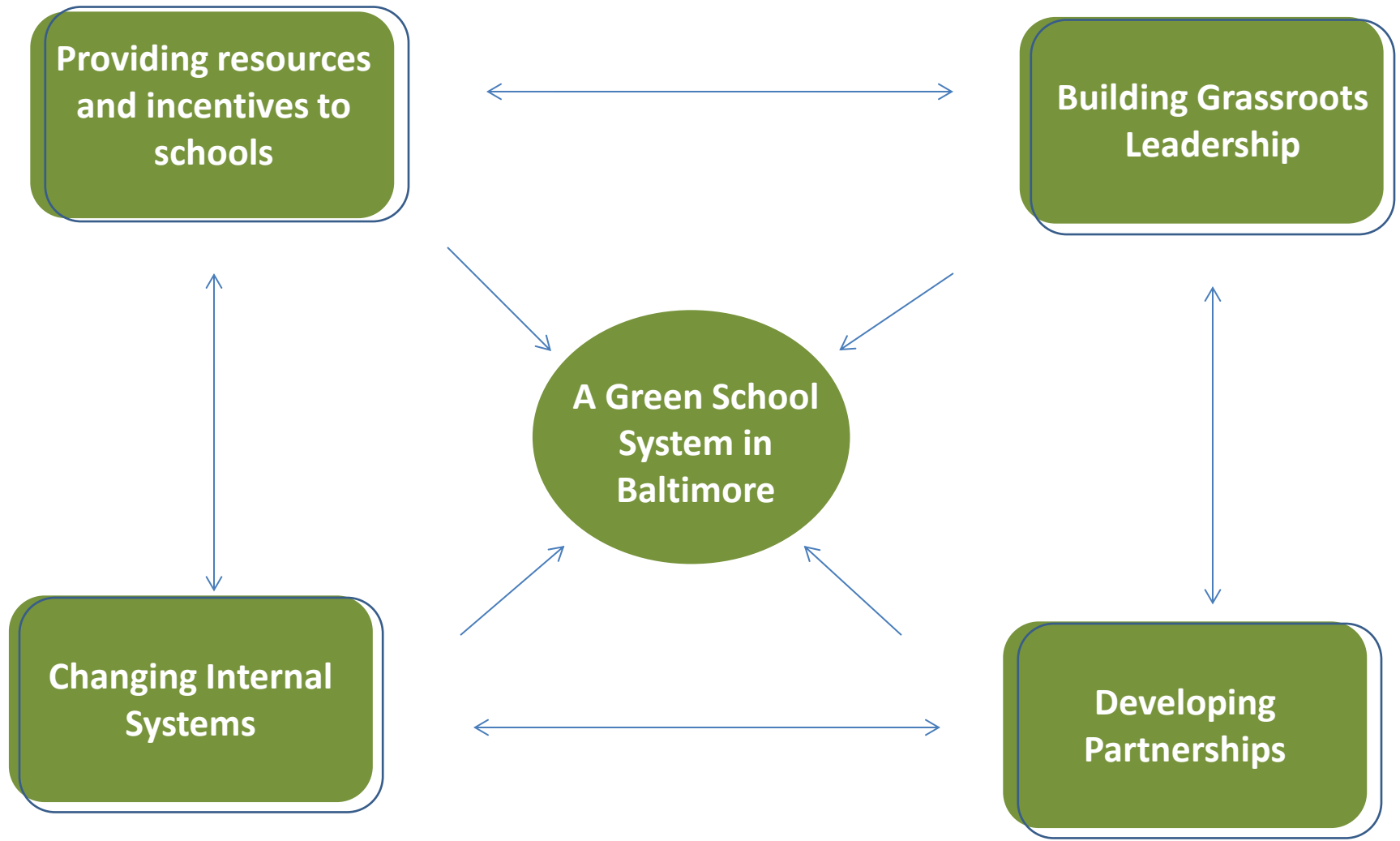


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BALTIMORE
ENERGY CHALLENGE

Theory of Change



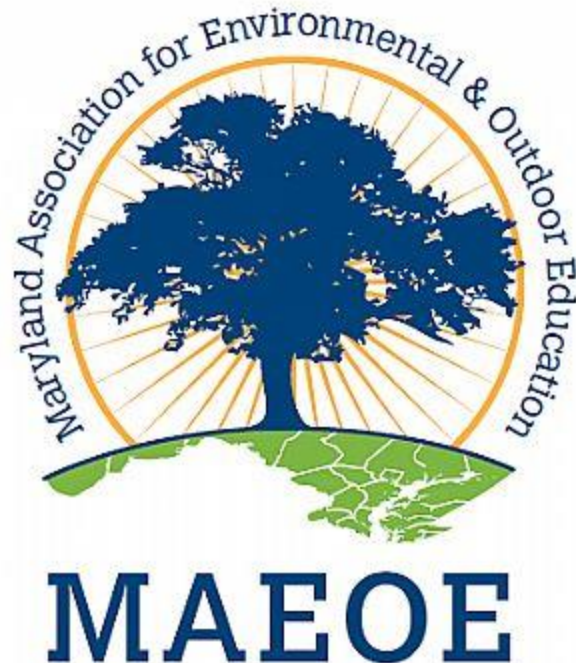
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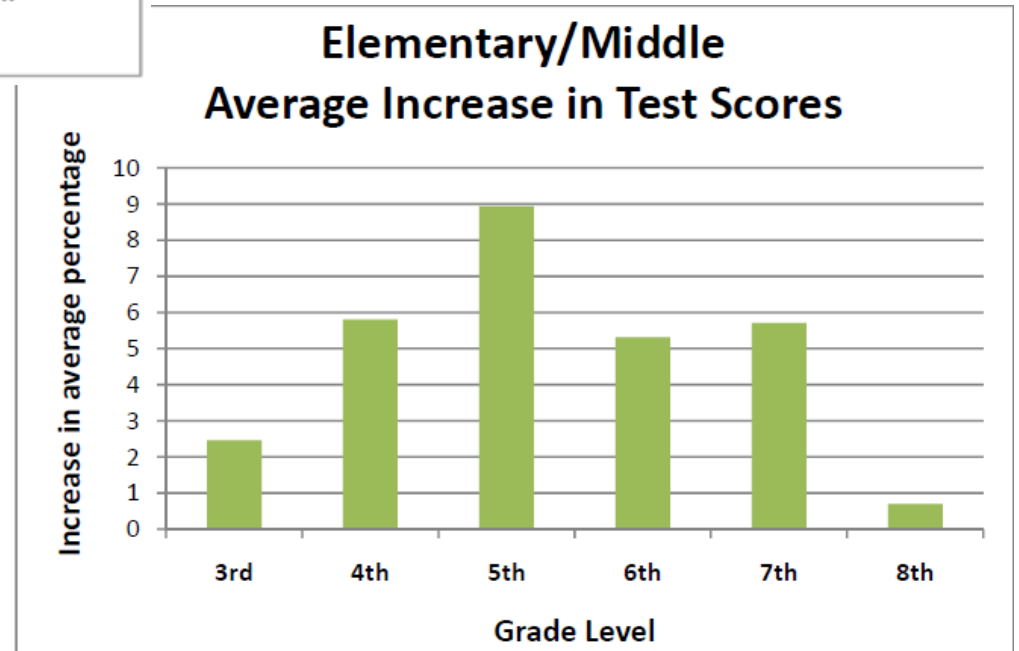
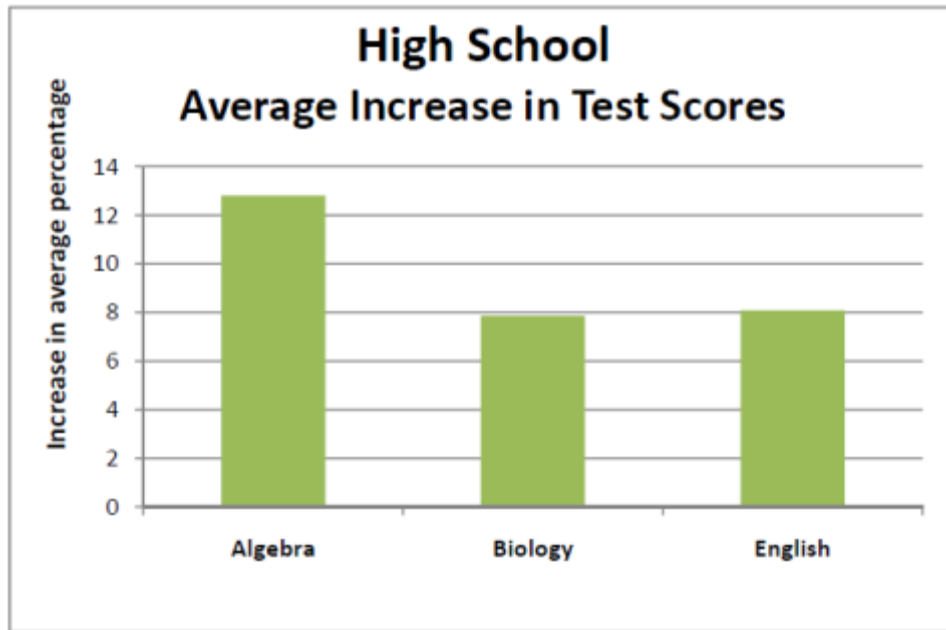


MAEOE (Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education)

- Founded in 1985, MAEOE is a state-wide nonprofit educational association
- Began Maryland Green Schools Program in 1999

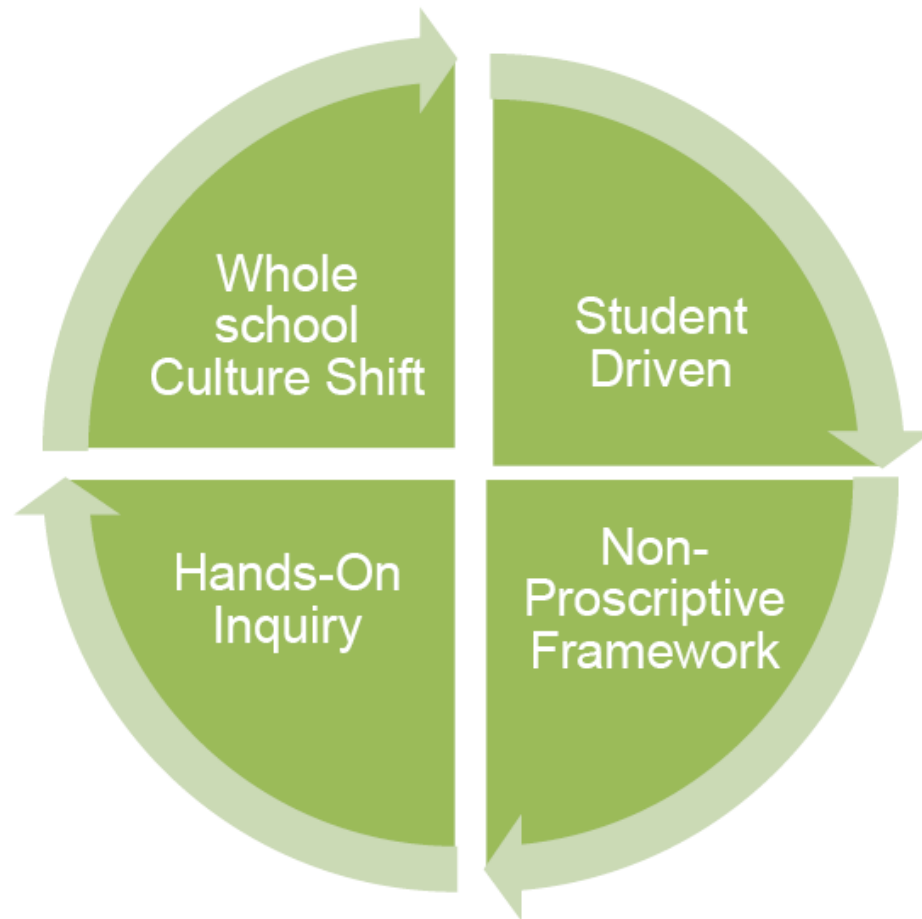


Average test scores at MD Green Schools increased post-certification



Source: Dr. Sarah Haines, Director for Science and Mathematics Education, Department of Biological Science, Towson University.

Maryland Green School Philosophy



Maryland Green School Application

Objective 1: Systemic Sustainability

- Environmental Issue Instruction
- Professional Development
- School-Wide Environmental Behavior Changes

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Objective 2: Student-driven Sustainability Practices

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- Energy Conservation
- Solid Waste Reduction
- Habitat Restoration
- Structures for Environmental Learning
- Responsible Transportation
- Healthy School Environment

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Objective 3: Community Partnerships, Awards and Special Recognition

- Community Partnerships
- Awards and Special Recognition

The Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge: Grants of \$1,000-\$2,500 for youth-led environmental projects at city public schools

- **Must be student driven**
- **Categories mirror the MD Green School application**
- **Projects have included gardens, field trips, energy audits, storm drain murals, wind turbines, and more**



Armistead Gardens Elementary/ Middle School

“The Green Team is like my very own community. While I’m helping myself, I’m helping others around me.” – Sylvanna A., 5th grade



Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts



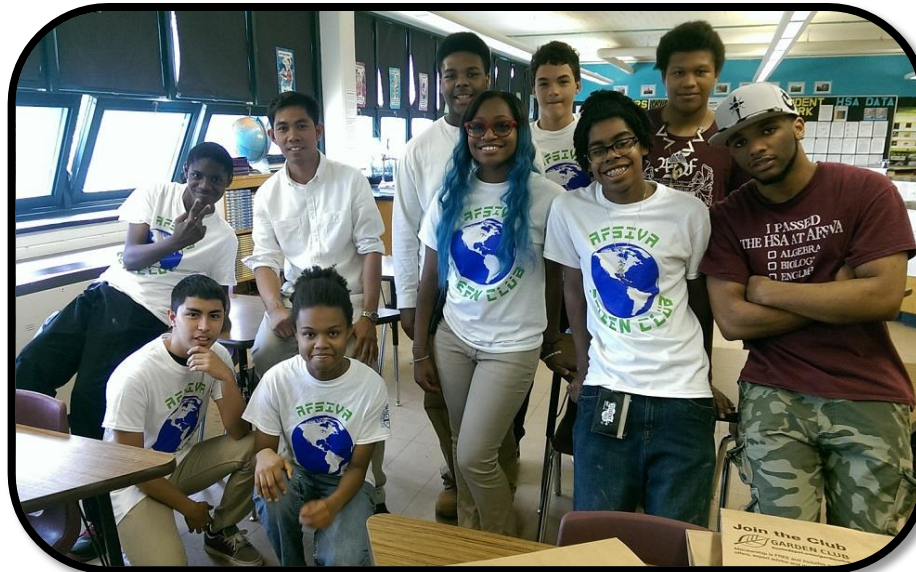
"A lot of things have changed. We have environmental science classes now, and the after school Green Club is a big thing now. They're the only club that works within the school. You can see the product of what they're doing, you can see their behavior change."

– Willy Herrera, Green Team Teacher

Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts

"The students really take pride in it, since they're the ones who made the school a green school. It's not the teachers, it's the students moving and making things happen, because without them, no matter how big your ideas are, it won't happen."

– Willy Herrera, Green Team Teacher



Hamilton Elementary Middle School

“The students really enjoy making their mark on the garden. We did mosaic stepping stones over the winter, which got all the kids invested. I love seeing kids rush to find their stone and show them to their parents, to see the pride they have in it.”

— Scott Hartman, Garden Educator



Hamilton Elementary Middle School



“I had a special education student whose reading level was very low... in 6th grade he had a decidedly bad year... his reward for doing a good job and staying in his classes was that he got to come out and work with me when I taught Pre-K and kindergarten... he’s mended fences with a lot of teachers. He’s just so very interested in everything outside and everything science related.”

– Scott Hartman, Garden Educator

Building Grassroots Leadership



Student Logo Design

Foam Tray
Advocacy

WYPR interview

Commission on
Sustainability
Presentation



Dialogue with
experts:

- Food & Nutrition
- Energy Office
- Public Works
- Free Your Voice

GREENSCAPE



GREENSCAPE



GREENSCAPE



Youth Employment Model



Our Youth Environmental Interns: Pamela Jackson, Claire Wayner,
and Ashley Edwards

Youth Advocacy

- Training Series
 - How A Bill Becomes a Law Training
 - How to Lobby Training with a State Lobbyist
- Visits to City Hall
- Input on City Schools' Sustainability Policy
- Lobbying Night in Annapolis
- Feeding the City's Sustainability Plan



Advocacy Night at
the State House



Mayoral Forum on the Environment



How to Lobby Training at the
National Aquarium



Rescue Canoe Practice for
the Baltimore Floatilla



Building a Youth Network

- Creating events that encourage youth connections
- Create opportunities for dialogue
- Continue to connect with students and create opportunities for team building
- Development of a school cluster and training strategy
- Connecting with local University student groups

Future work

- More state-level advocacy
- Outdoor leadership character development experience
- Implementation of School Cluster Strategy



Changing Internal Systems

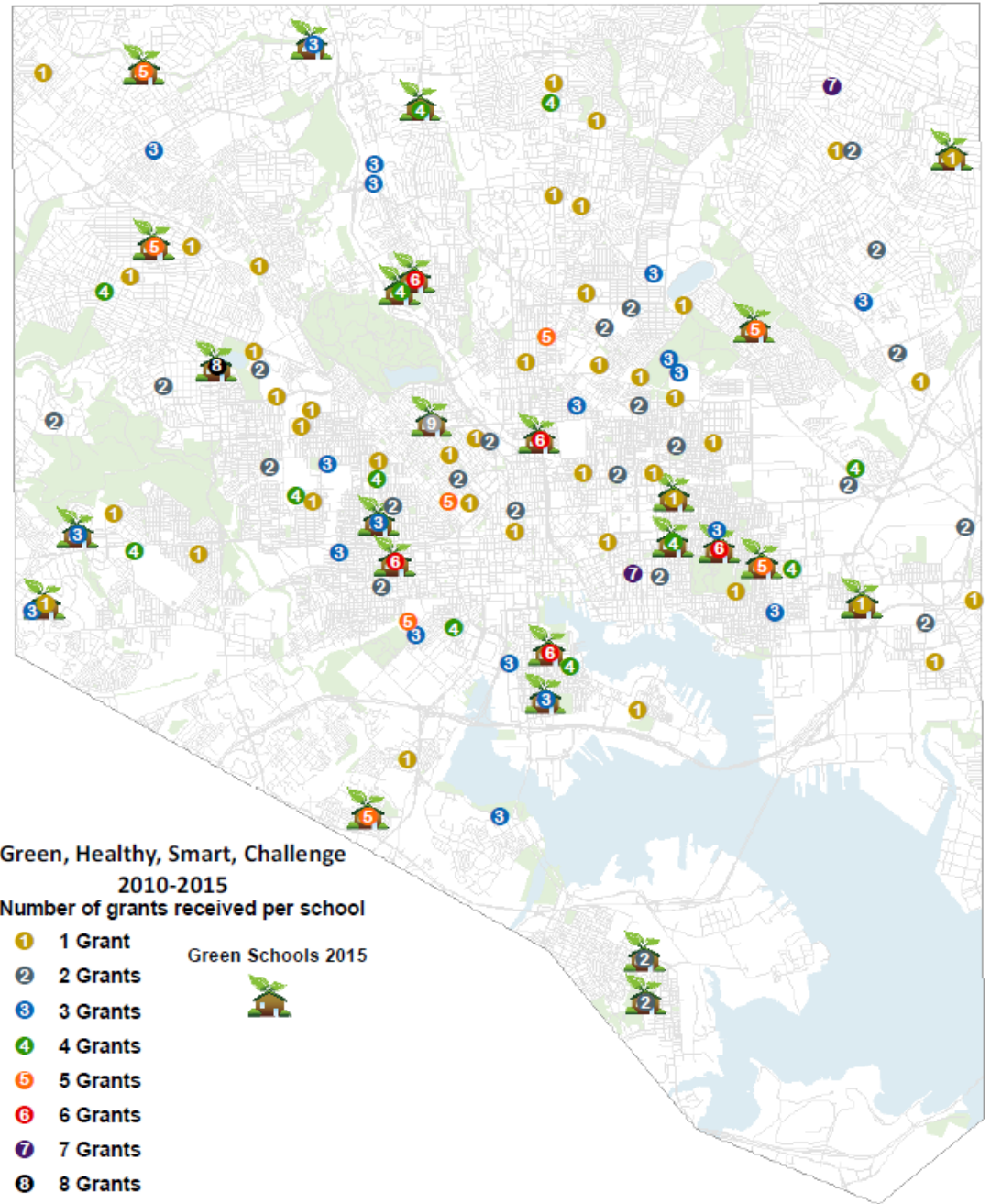
- Curriculum & Instruction: Green Leader AUs, Professional Development, Develop Comprehensive Environmental Literacy Plan
- City Schools Sustainability Policy Draft: Recycling, Coordinated Energy Reduction, Green Cleaning
- 21st Century Schools: Design Standards, Green School Workgroups, Net Zero, Renewable Energy
- Annual Report to the Board

Baltimore's Green Schools

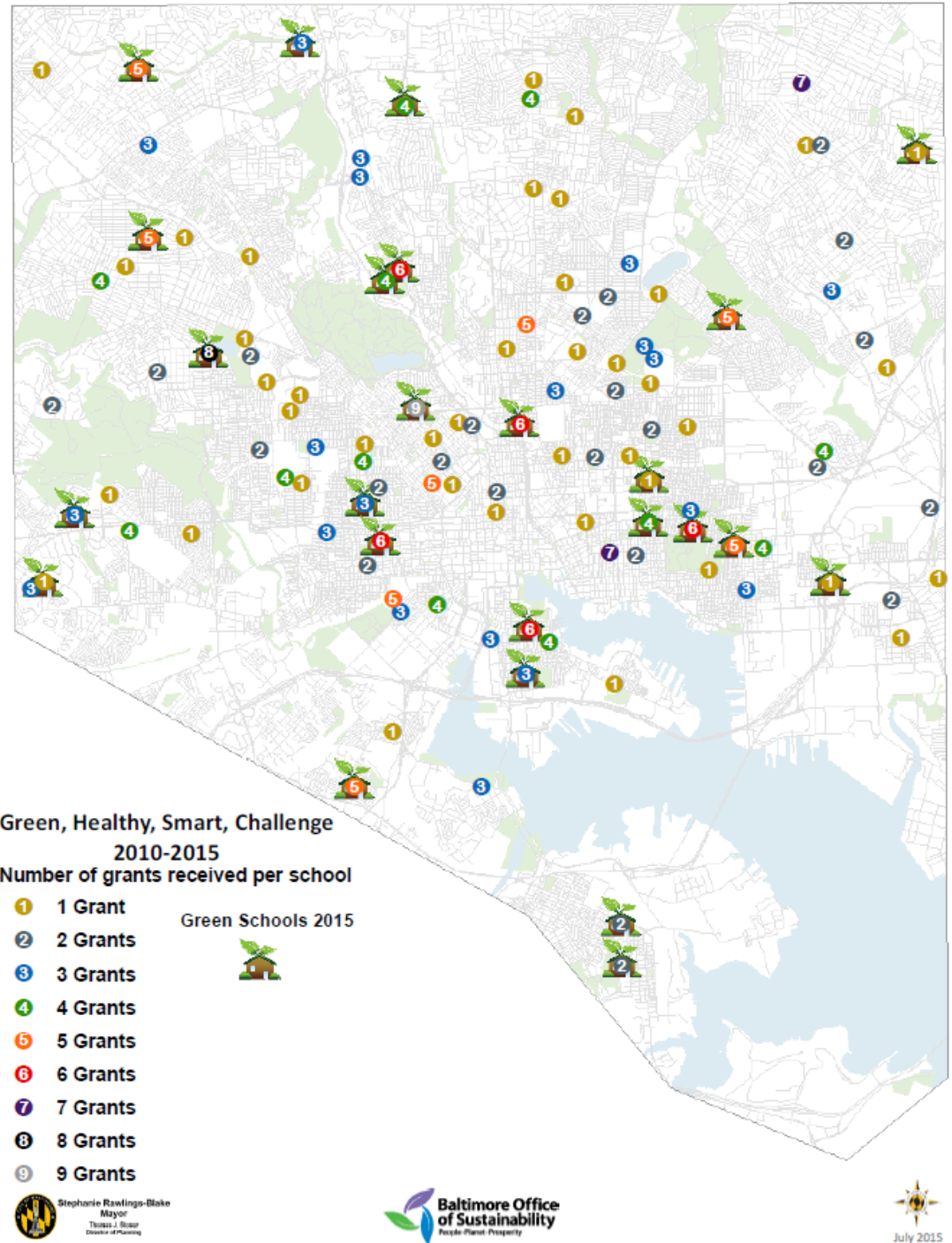
- Academy for College and Career Exploration High
- Augusta Fells Savage Institute for Visual Arts High
- Baltimore Lab School (I)
- Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School
- Benjamin Franklin High
- Calvert School (I)
- Catholic High School (I)
- City Neighbors Charter School
- Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle
- Cross Country Elementary/Middle
- Curtis Bay Elementary
- Federal Hill Prep Elementary
- Franklin Square Elementary/Middle
- George W.F. McMechen High
- Green Street Academy
- Henderson Hopkins Elementary/Middle
- Highlandtown #215 Elementary/Middle
- Hilton Elementary
- Independence High
- John Eager Howard Elementary
- John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle
- Lakeland Elementary/Middle
- Mount Washington Elementary
- Patterson Park Public Charter
- Roland Park Country School (I)
- Roland Park Elementary/Middle
- St. Elizabeth School (I)
- St. Casimir School (I)
- The Bryn Mawr School (I)
- The Green School of Baltimore
- Thomas Jefferson Elementary/Middle
- Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle
- Waldorf School of Baltimore (I)



- 2016: 55 grants



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- 2010-2016: 130 schools (70%!)



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Green Schools
(14%)

