

Growing Green:

The Keys to 100%
Green Schools by 2035

**Mobilize Frederick Education Group
Climate Response and Resilience Report
Recommendation 37**



Sugarloaf
Elementary School

Green Schools are more than just buildings..... they incorporate our school campuses, curriculum, and communities



Kellam High School,
Virginia Beach City School
District

- 86 schools,
- 67,000 students
- Similar budget to FCPS
- 1.5 million sq. ft.+ of LEED building space

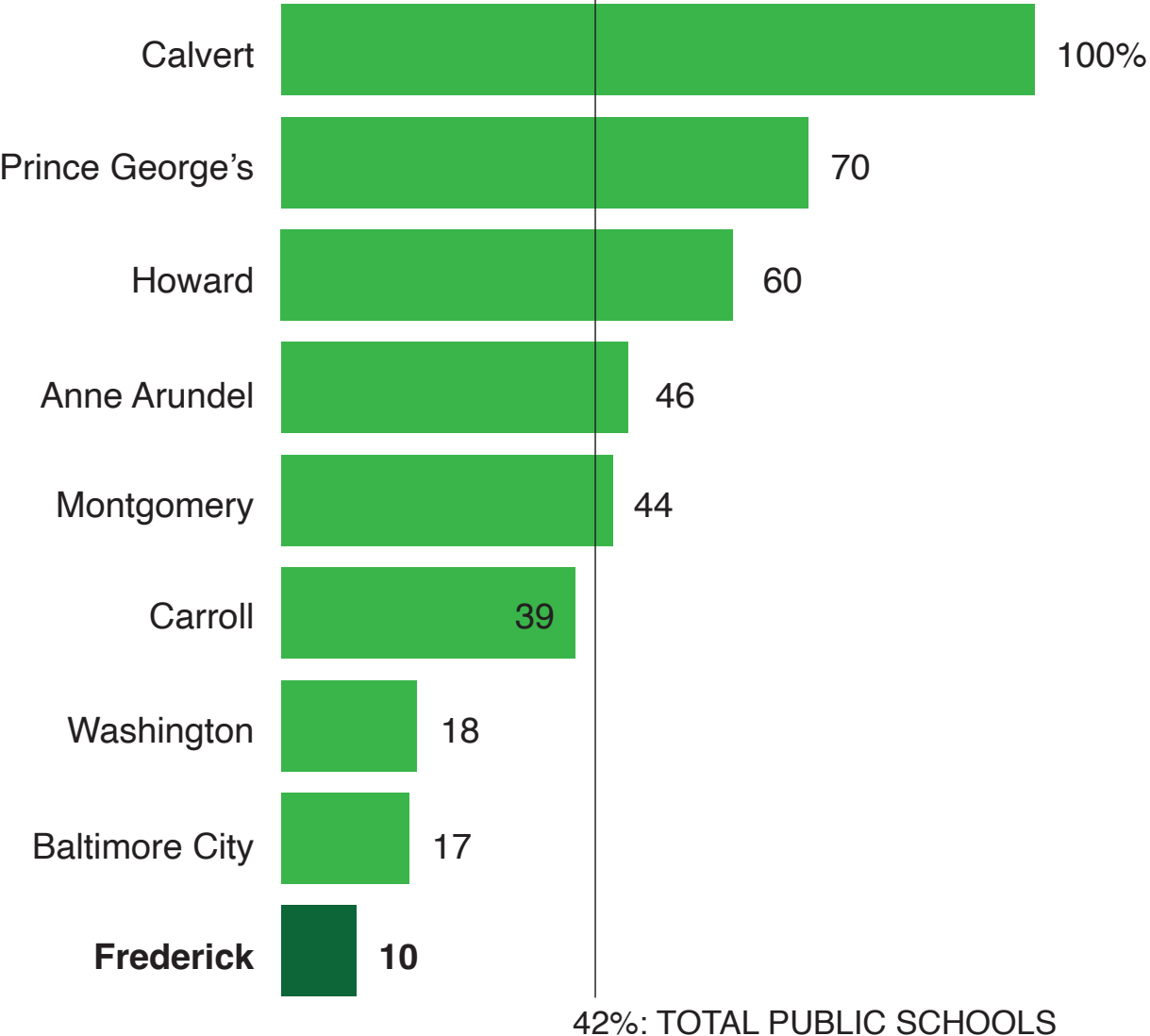
**One well-positioned
person led the way....**

Since 2006:

- Environmental clubs increased from 6 to 72
- Outdoor teaching gardens increased from 5 to 64
- Plan for all 86 schools to have scratch-cooking in school cafeterias by 2024
- **Saved \$69 million on energy costs**

Frederick County ranks among lowest in Maryland Green Schools participation rate

% of select participating schools, by county



MAEOE

Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) has managed the Maryland Green Schools Program since 1999.

Program designed to create positive, sustained school-wide changes in knowledge, attitude, behavior, and action.

In 2019, State Legislature provided funds to increase Green Schools to 50%

Green Schools Goals

Objective 1: Curriculum & Instruction

- Professional development
- Environmental lessons across all disciplines

Objective 2: Student Actions

- Energy conservation
- Water conservation
- Composting
- Recycling
- Ecosystem restoration
- School gardens
- Etc.

Objective 3: Community Partnerships, Awards & Recognitions



Students renew pledge and celebrate 2nd year of recycling and composting at Urbana High School

Environmental Education Linked to Academic Achievement

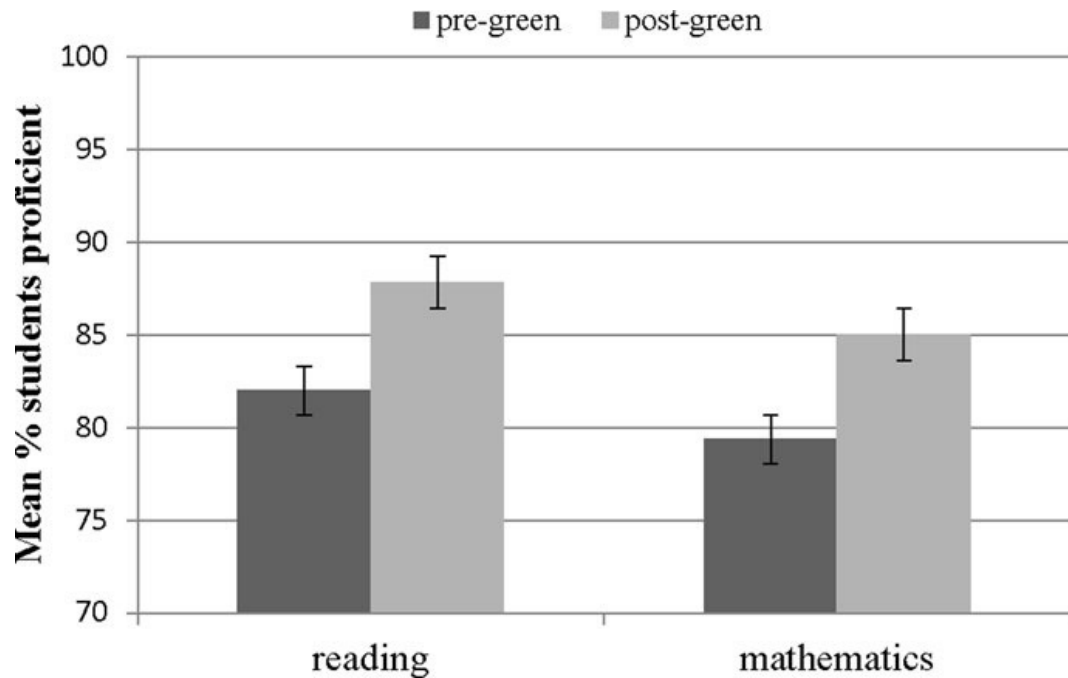


Fig. 1. Mean percentage pass rate for elementary and middle school students, pre- and post- Maryland Green Schools Awards Program designation.

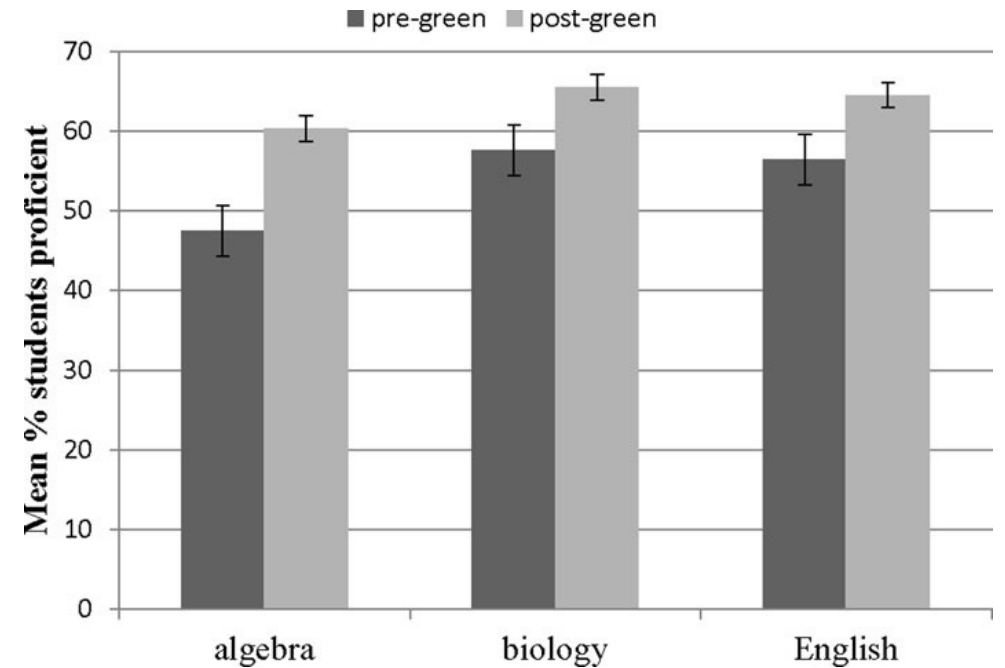
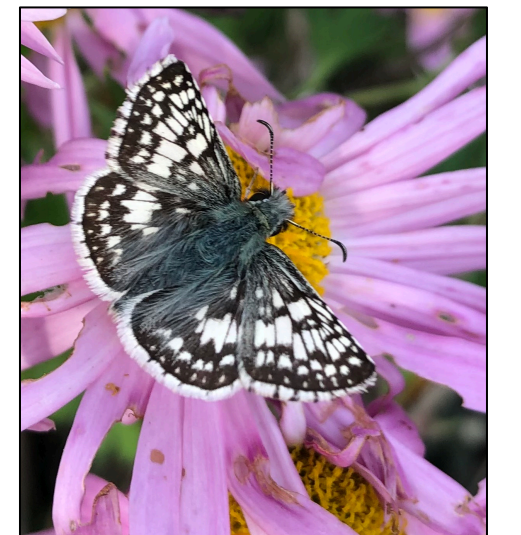


Fig. 2. Mean percentage pass rate for high schools pre- and post- Maryland Green Schools Awards Program designation.

From Study: The Influence of a Statewide Green School Initiative on Student Achievement in K–12 Classrooms by Cynthia Ghent, Amy Trauth-Nare, Katie Dell & Sarah Haines. Towson University. Published online: 13 Dec 2014.

Benefits of Green Schools

- Increase student achievement
- Improve physical and mental health
- Increase staff retention
- Strengthen communities
- Recover food
- Prepare for workforce
- Increase civic engagement
- Improve environment
- Achieve sustainability goals as set forth in BOE Policy 204
- **SAVE MONEY**
- ...and more.



Why Schools?



Pollinator garden @ Middletown Elementary

- 20% of our county residents are in schools nearly every day
- 47,000 students
- FCPS county's 2nd largest employer
- 1500 acres of campuses (for comparison, we have 2400 acres of county parks)
- 6.7 million square feet building space
- Budget: FY23 \$800 million plus with nearly 45% of funding coming from local county government

What our team has started!

- Collaborating with FCPS
- Assisted MAEOE with Green Careers Fair
- Grants to support professional development and school supplies
- Facilitating community partnerships
- Facilitating Green Centers



Examples from Other Districts — which have robust Green Schools programs

Baltimore City Public Schools

Sustainability Plan (2016):

- Easy to navigate online plan and progress
- Includes 6 Focus Areas:
 - Develop environmentally literate students
 - Create healthy school environments
 - Reduce and conserve natural resources
 - Improve school green spaces
 - Engage school communities
 - Build student leadership
- <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability>

Prince George's County Public Schools

Climate Action Plan (April 2022):

- Developed after county finalized own plan
- Includes 8 Priorities:
 - Support environmental justice through climate curriculum and trainings
 - Reduce carbon footprint from buildings
 - Commit to low carbon school transportation
 - Reduce food waste and grow climate-friendly food
 - Commit to sustainable materials management and procurement
 - Commit to climate resilient land management
 - Lead by example to support transformational change
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eS5YuvflbLyDsnw5QWwqITltKBeEjx28/view>

Started by Principals in 2009



Welcome

FCPS Get2Green is the environmental stewardship program for Fairfax County Public Schools. Use this website as a resource to engage in environmental stewardship projects at your school, incorporate sustainability in the classroom, find your school's energy and recycling data, and learn more about green initiatives in FCPS.



Check out our new and improved Energy Dashboard to find the latest data for your school!



Our Requests of the Board of Education

Commitment

- **Support increasing Green Schools, set goal**
- Recognize accomplishments
- Community partnerships
- Expanded use of public infrastructure
- Support FCPS Green Center or Sustainability Hub

Staff Support/Funding

- **Designate funding for Green Schools Coordinator (who can bridge gap between facilities and instruction)**
- Supplemental compensation/planning time for Green School leaders
- Add district-wide Environmental Educators that can coach and lead
- Expand Outdoor Education opportunities and outreach

Sustainability Plan

- **Include environmental literacy, curriculum in all disciplines in plan**
- Include Green Schools
- Buildings *and* Campuses
- Mirror goals of county and other county plans
- Include a website that shares data and available resources

Why Green Schools Now?

- ✓ Achieves BOE's policy guidance
- ✓ Students know the climate is changing - they are anxious for action and education
- ✓ Green Schools online application is easier now with online portal that was funded by state
- ✓ Synergistic with all county plans and the Blueprint
- ✓ Unprecedented state and federal funding
- ✓ Students need time away from screens



Playing the monarch migration game @
Sugarloaf Elementary School

