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**2015—2016 Academic Year**

**Rolling Deadline, last day is Friday, October 30, 2015 at 5pm**

Overview

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability, Baltimore Community Foundation, and Baltimore City Public Schools, with support from Constellation, an Exelon Company, are offering Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge grants to support environmental leadership by students at Baltimore City Public Schools.

All Baltimore City Public Schools may apply for up to **$1,000**. Schools that have successfully completed at least one Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge grant project in the past **AND** are actively working on applying for Maryland Green School status in 2016 may apply for up to **$1,500**. Schools that are currently certified as Maryland Green Schools may apply for up to **$2,500**. To learn more about the Maryland Green School Awards Program, see page 7.

In order to apply

1) Organize a Green Team of at least five students to plan and implement the project.

2) Identify a teacher, administrator, or volunteer at the school to be the Project Coordinator.

3) Carefully read the Project Guidelines section on page 2 and come up with project ideas or you may choose from the menu of project options on page 3. **Please submit only ONE application per school**.

4) Complete the application on page 4-6, print it out, and have the Principal and Green Team members sign it.

5) Mail, scan and email, or fax your application to ***Andrea Calderón at Baltimore Office of Sustainability, 417 E. Fayette St., 8th floor, Baltimore, MD 21202;*** ***Andrea.Calderon@baltimorecity.gov******; or 410-244-7358 (fax)***. You may submit any time on or before 10/30/15. The sooner you apply, the sooner you may receive funding.

After you apply

1) Applications will be judged on how well they meet the goals of the program (see page 2 for details). This is a competitive grant, and awards are not guaranteed.

2) You will be notified of the status of your application within four weeks of submission.

3) If your school is awarded a grant, we will issue a check directly to your school.

4) All projects must include an energy activity with the Baltimore Energy Challenge (see page 9 for details).

5) You must record your progress, including saving receipts, taking pictures, submitting a narrative report, and giving a presentation at our annual celebration in May 2016.



City Schools are also encouraged to apply to the Baltimore Energy Challenge to be Energy Hub Schools in 2016! Energy Hubs get up to $1,000 for energy conservation projects and also get hands-on, in-depth lessons and
support from AmeriCorps volunteers. To apply, visit [www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools).

Project Guidelines

Sustainability means meeting the current environmental, social, and economic needs of our community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet those needs. The goals of the Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge are to:

* Provide students with the opportunity to become leaders in sustainability.
* Make Baltimore’s schools and neighborhoods cleaner, greener, and more environmentally friendly.
* Help schools certify with the Maryland Green School Awards Program (more information on page 7).

Be creative! Ask questions like, what are some of the things I’d like to improve at my school? If I could fix them, would they make my school a cleaner, greener, healthier place? Who might benefit from or participate in my project? How can this project create stronger ties with our families and communities?

Your grant project must fit into one or more of the following categories. You may use one or more of the examples provided or come up with your own ideas. *Please remember that projects must be student-led.*

**Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention**: Create and hang signage encouraging water conservation by school sinks and water fountains. Conduct water quality monitoring of local streams near schools. Conduct erosion-control projects such as planting rain gardens and trees.

**Energy Conservation**: Conduct energy audits of classrooms and hold a contest to see who can lower energy use the most. Build demonstration projects such as solar ovens and wind turbines. *You can get additional funds and support for energy conservation by becoming an Energy Hub School:* [*www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools*](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools)*.*

**Solid Waste Reduction**: Monitor, track and/or manage school recycling. Create posters to remind each classroom what to recycle. Start recycling milk and juice cartons. Build, monitor, and maintain an outdoor compost bin or an indoor worm composting bin. Turn repurposed materials into art projects.

**Habitat Restoration**: Plant or tend a native butterfly or pollinator garden in schoolyard. Plant native trees or native bay grasses. Install and monitor bird, bat, or butterfly boxes. Construct oyster reef habitat balls.

**Structures for Environmental Learning**: Build and use an outdoor classroom. Grow food in gardens at school. Create environmentally-themed murals or other art. Build and use a nature trail around the schoolyard. Post interpretative signage about interesting environmental features in the schoolyard.

**Responsible Transportation**: Create a no-idling zone by posting signage and handing out fliers. Install bike racks and run a bike safety program. Do tire pressure/oil leak checks on faculty vehicles and inform vehicle owners of results (improper tire pressure leads to greater fuel consumption).

**Healthy School Environment**: Test and analyze the indoor air quality. Make and use non-toxic cleaning products for classrooms. Install no smoking signs in front of the school. Grow indoor plants to enhance air quality.

Want to get inspired? Visit [www.baltimoresustainability.org/youth-zone](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAbby.Cocke%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CNBJVS7CL%5Cwww.baltimoresustainability.org%5Cyouth-zone) to see videos showcasing past projects. Have questions, need help? ***Contact Andrea Calderón at*** ***andrea.calderon@baltimorecity.gov*** ***or 667-224-0267.***

Optional Menu of Project Ideas

We encourage you to come up with your own project ideas and budget! However, you may also use this menu of pre-packaged ideas. If you wish to do so, please **check off one or two** of the boxes below, and describe the specifics of how you intend to implement the project(s) in the “project description” section on page 5 below. You will be expected to work within the budget amounts provided below. You do NOT have to fill out the budget on page 6 if choosing from this list. Be sure to check out “Additional Resources” on page 8 below for info on partners who can help with these projects.

While this menu is intended to make it easier to get started, it should not take the place of brainstorming, creativity, and leadership amongst your Green Team members!

#### [ ]  Gardens $500

Students develop and install a garden in their schoolyard or neighborhood. Budget: Tools $80; Soil $100; Wood and hardware for planter boxes and/or fence $175; Plants/seeds $100; Soil test $25; Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN) membership $20

#### [ ]  Recycling $500

Students launch a school-wide recycling campaign. Budget: Recycling bins $400; Posters and supplies $50

#### [ ]  Murals and Mosaics $250

Students develop a mural, sign-making or mosaic tile project to install in their schoolyard or neighborhood. Budget: Art supplies $250

#### [ ]  Neighborhood Clean-ups $150

Students organize neighborhood or stream clean-ups, and invite community members to join them. Budget: Bags $50; Gloves $25; Snacks $50; Posters $25

### [ ]  Rain Barrels $300

Students decorate and install rain barrels on the school’s downspouts. Budget: Barrels and fittings $300; Paint and brushes $50

#### [ ]  Field Trips $450

Students visit a free environmental education site, such as Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company or the Backriver Wastewater Treatment Plant, and teach what they learn there to others in the school. Budget: Bus $400; Snacks $50

#### [ ]  Air Quality $300

Students launch a school-wide campaign to improve air quality and fight asthma by creating green cleaning products for use in classrooms, and designing and installing “no idling” and “no smoking” signs for the area in front the school. Budget: Ingredients for green cleaning products $200; Sign materials $100

#### [ ]  Maryland Zoo Lab $580

Students visit the Maryland Zoo and take part in a “Zoo Lab” about a local environmental issue, then teach what they’ve learned to others in the school. Budget: Bus $400; Zoo Lab $130 (for a class of 25); Snacks $50

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**2015—2016 Application**

**Please use the format provided below. Typed responses are preferred. If you hand write your application, please write neatly. Feel free to attach additional pages if necessary.**

School Information

School Name and Number:  Federal Hill Preparatory #45

School Address: 1040 William Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

Principal’s Name: Sara Long

Principal’s Email: slong@bcps.k12.md.us

Principal’s Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a description of your school, including name(s) of the surrounding neighborhoods, grades served, community partnerships, and any past projects dealing with sustainability:

Federal Hill Preparatory School is public school located in the historic neighborhood of Federal Hill. We have a diverse population of students including students from Locust Point, Riverside, South Baltimore, Sharp-Leadenhall, and some come from scattered parts of the city. We are a PreK-5 grade school focusing on readiness in reading, writing, math, science, music, and athletics. New this year we have a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) curriculum that was designed in collaboration with the Digital Harbor Foundation. Federal Hill Prep is one of nine Baltimore City Public Schools with a gifted and talented education program (GATE) with differentiated instruction and enrichment activities for advanced students. At a time when there are many options to consider, FHPS is succeeding- not just in helping students pass standardized tests but in preparing children for a lifetime of learning. Drawing on proven instructional methods from around the world, FHPS gives its students the knowledge and skills they need to be good citizens today and community leaders tomorrow.

Our principal, Ms. Sara Long is dedicated to continuing to improve our wonderful school. Federal Hill Preparatory students are exposed to a multitude of experiences inside and outside the classroom as part of a robust curriculum. Enrichment programs include many assemblies and field trips throughout the year. Ms. Long does a wonderful job to ensure that all of these assemblies and trips are connected to the curriculum.

Past projects include the initiation of a composting program and making improvements to this program. We have been continuing to make strides in improving the separation of our lunch materials by incorporating new materials. We started a garden that initially started out as a reading garden but has bloomed into growing plants, vegetables, and herbs. We have taken an interest in our watershed and have painted our storm drains with SLURRP and Blue Water Baltimore. We are doing more work with our school environment through saving energy and improving our indoor air quality. We installed a living wall with our GHSC award last year and were able to measure an improvement in our indoor air quality. We were the winner of the First Baltimore Energy Challenge in 2014 out of thirteen participating Baltimore City Schools. Our school reduced its energy usage by 14%. Our newest addition is our rain garden that we were able to install with our GHSC 2105 Grant. Many people in the surrounding community have been coming to inquire about the rain garden.

Past trips have included: Seed to table, The Living Classroom, the Maryland Science Center, Masonville Cove, The Walters Art Museum, The National Aquarium, The Maryland Historical Society, Camden Yards, Ravens Stadium, Irvine nature Center, Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History, National Cryptologic Museum, Waste Management, Great Kids Farm, Wheelabrator Baltimore, Maryland Green Schools Summit and the Museum of Industry. Visitors to our school have included Don Thomas NASA Astronaut, an African Drum Troup, Pennies for Patients, SLURRP, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Tree Baltimore, Parks and People, Baltimore Energy Challenge, Constellation Energy, Master Gardeners, Baltimore Community Foundation, Blue Water Baltimore and the Baltimore City Mayor.

Student “Green Team” Information

A Green Team is a group of students working together to make their school a more environmentally friendly place, during or after school. If your school does not currently have a Green Team, you must form one in order to apply. Please include the names, grades, and signatures of at least five students that are going to lead the project.

Names and Grades:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please provide a description of your Green Team, including which classes and/or grades the participating students are drawn from, when the group was formed, when it will meet, whether membership will stay the same or will change throughout the school year, and what other projects, if any, the team has worked on so far:

The green team involved in this project are students in grades 2nd through 5th. Each school year we have sign ups for the green team. We have some returning members as well as some new members. They continue to enforce the turning out of lights at the end of the day and reduced lights during the day. Recycling of paper on Thursdays. Taking shifts in the cafeteria to make sure everyone is composting properly. Creating signage for the cafeteria. Coordinating the teracycle of plastic bags, and corks. Participation in the composting case study in 2011/2012 school year, made them realize what a difference they can make. We diverted over 15,000 pounds from the landfill. They did a wonderful job diverting food waste from the landfill. The 5th graders are responsible for the maitenance of our living wall. The 4th graders are responsible for the habitat garden. The students discussed changing our name to trhe nature club because we do so many things outside. One thing they would like to tackle this year is the trash around our neighborhood and trying to get more trash cans installed byt the neighborhood association and the city. Last year we were an Energy Hub school and would like to continue this effort.

This year our group meets every Thursday to discuss our green projects. Our major project will be the planning and installation of our Bird Sanctuary.

Project Coordinator Information

The Project Coordinator is the administrator, teacher, or volunteer who will be the point of contact for notification of funding, reporting requirements, and special events and opportunities related to the program.

Project Coordinator’s Name: Amy Thomas

Project Coordinator’s Position at the School: Volunteer Green Club Coordinator

Project Coordinator’s Direct Phone Number: 410-493-8170

Project Coordinator’s Email: amythomas1102@yahoo.com

Project Description

Please answer all of the following questions. You must fill out this section, even if you are choosing from the menu of projects on page 3.

1. What will you call your school’s Sustainability Project? Be creative! Bird Sanctuary
2. Describe your project (please answer all questions): What will your students do with the funds you are requesting? What is the timeline? How they will be involved as leaders through the project? How will the project increase sustainability? Will any partners be involved, and, if so, how? What are the anticipated outcomes from your project? How will the project impact the rest of the school and/or your community? Our students will transform a dilapidated space into a Bird Sanctuary/Outdoor Classroom. Our green team and 5th grade students will design and build the Bird Sanctuary/Outdoor Classroom with the help of Patterson park Audobon Society. We will build a habitat garden and fill it with a diversity of native plants from Maryland which serve as hosts for insects - birds' favorite food - as well as provide essential seeds, berries,nectar, shelter, water, and places to raise their young. Our new garden will serve as an outdoor classroom space for teachers and students. We will need to do several things for this project. First educate. Patterson Park Audobon will come to the school to educate the students about bird sanctuaries. They will explain why we should be protecting Maryland's birds . Next we will design. Our 5th grade green team will be taking the lead on this part of the project. We will meet with Patterson Park Audobon's Susie Creamer, for guidance. The students will need to measure the area, take infiltration tests, and pick out what plants will work best. Then plot out the layout. Parks and people will be helping us install tree trunks for outdoor seating.The garden will be installed over the course of a week with students and help from our volunteers and staff. Our build week will take place the first week in April during National Volunteer Week, April 10th -16th 2016. We are going to have volunteers from our local M& T bank, Constellation Energy, Target, neighborhood association, and parents who have already expressed interest. After the installation of our Bird Sanctuary/ Outdoor classroom in April, we will host our Annual Green Night at the School to have a Grand Opening of our Bird Sanctuary. The students will share with our community the benefits of ourBird Sanctuary and what they can do at home and in their everyday lives to protect Maryland's Birds.
3. Which area(s) does your project address?

[ ]  Water Conservation/Water Pollution Prevention

[ ]  Energy Conservation

[ ]  Solid Waste Reduction

[ ]  Habitat Restoration

[x]  Structures for Environmental Learning

[ ]  Responsible Transportation

[ ]  Healthy School Environment

1. Do you know yet how you want to work with the Baltimore Energy Challenge to incorporate energy conservation into your project (see page 9 for details on this requirement)? If so, please describe. Federal Hill would like to do an Energy Audit on our entire building. We have done energy audits in the past with our Americorp Volunteers but these were just of the classrooms. We participated in the Energy Challenge for the past 2 years and the data shows that we are using a lot more enrgy than other schools. We would like to determine where this is coming from and put an end to it. The green club will give an interactive presentation to the school on how they can save energy. We would also take a field trip to an energy plant.
2. Please check this box if you would be interested in having a corporate volunteer group assist with your project. [x]

Budget

Please complete the budget form below. Total budget request per project may not exceed $1,000 (or $1,500 for schools previously participating and working on Maryland Green School status, and $2,500 for Certified Maryland Green Schools). **Please list the quantity, type of items, and cost or approximate cost of all items.**

***You do not need to fill this out if you are choosing one or more projects from the menu on page 3.***

| **Category** | **Items**  | **Cost** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Implementation**(The tools you’ll need to carry out your project) | Paint for Mural $1000 Native plants, grasses, and shrubs, Bird bath, Bird feeders $1375Tree trunks for seating | $2375.00 |
| **Promotion**(Informing other students or members of your community about the project. Examples include flyers, banners, t-shirts, bumper stickers, and bulletin boards) | Promotion done online. Banner | $125.00 |
| **Recording and Reporting**(Documenting your work by print, photo, video and/or other means) |  Video made by students with school iPad | $ 00.00 |
| **Training and Research**(Materials or other information resources, including field trips fees)  |       | $      |
| **Transportation**(Getting to and from events or sites needed to carry out the project) |       | $      |
| **Other**(If you expect other expenses, please describe them here) |       | $      |
| **Total** |  | $**2500.00** |

Reporting Requirements

Before submitting your application, please make sure you are aware of our requirements regarding reporting.

1. Your Green Team will need to complete a simple pre- and post-survey that we will provide to you.
2. You will need to submit a narrative report at the completion of your project, including an updated actual budget and receipts from all funds spent. A report template will be provided and will include topics such as final project description, pictures, testimonials from students and teachers involved in the project, the number of students who were reached by the project, and potential next steps.
3. You will need to create a presentation poster for GreenScape, to be held in May 2016. The poster will describe your project, and, ideally, students will attend and speak about their work.

The Maryland Green School Awards Program

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) is a nonprofit educational association that helps educators build a citizenry that understands and is responsibly engaged in advancing sustainability to address human needs and to conserve the Earth's natural resources. MAEOE launched the Maryland Green School Awards Program in 1999 to recognize schools that incorporate local environmental issue investigation and professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship. All Maryland K-12 schools, public and private, are eligible to become certified Green Schools.

To apply, a school must document activities in a number of categories over two years. Applications are non-competitive and are accepted each year in the spring. MAEOE recognizes newly awarded Maryland Green Schools in late spring, and holds an award ceremony in late May/early June. Schools must reapply every four years. As of 2015, 26 public schools in Baltimore City are Maryland Green Schools.

**Becoming a Green School is associated with significant increases in student test scores.** For a detailed review of the data on this, download the report at <http://maeoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/GSreport_bw.pdf>.

When you certify, your school will receive:

1. A Maryland Green School flag;
2. Statewide and local recognition;
3. 1:1 match on Tree-Mendous tree orders; and
4. Visibility as a model for other schools and for the local neighborhood.

Most importantly, pursuing Green School certification motivates your school community to achieve a big environmental goal! The momentum that starts with the certification process can transform a school community.

Certification as a Maryland Green School is not a required part of the Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge – it is very much encouraged! By forming a Green Team and completing a Sustainability Project, your school will begin to fulfill some of the key criteria for certification.

You can find examples of successful Baltimore City applications for Green School status here: [accegreenschoolapplication.weebly.com](http://accegreenschoolapplication.weebly.com/), [federalhillpreparatory.weebly.com](http://federalhillpreparatory.weebly.com/), [thecjrschoolgreen.weebly.com](http://thecjrschoolgreen.weebly.com/),

[pattersonparkgreen.weebly.com](http://pattersonparkgreen.weebly.com/) , [hiltongreenschool.weebly.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAbby.Cocke%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CNBJVS7CL%5Chiltongreenschool.weebly.com), [independenceschoolgreenteam.weebly.com](http://independenceschoolgreenteam.weebly.com/), [tjgreenschoolapplication.weebly.com](http://tjgreenschoolapplication.weebly.com/), [afsiva.weebly.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAbby.Cocke%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CNBJVS7CL%5Cafsiva.weebly.com), [mountwashingtonschool.weebly.com](http://mountwashingtonschool.weebly.com/), <http://hendersonhopkinsgreenschool.weebly.com/>, <http://lakelandgreenschool.weebly.com>

**If your school is interested in applying, the staff of the Baltimore Office of Sustainability would love to help**! Please contact Abby Cocke at Abby.Cocke@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-1670 for assistance.



For more information on MAEOE and the Maryland Green School Awards Program:

**The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education**

greenschools@maeoe.org

443-733-1220

[www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org)

Additional Resources

Interested in learning more about what’s happening to improve sustainability throughout City Schools? Visit the City Schools’ Sustainability page at [www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability) or [www.baltimorecityschools.org/internal\_sustainability](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/internal_sustainability), or contact Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Green Schools Coordinator, at JPi-Sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us or 443-642-4542. You can also check out the **Resource Guide for Going Green in City Schools** ([www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/26114](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/26114)), from the City Schools Office of Engagement! Topics covered include Sustainable & Healthy Food Systems, Sustainable Facilities, Schoolyard Greening, Family & Community Engagement, Learning to Work Green, Green Teaching, Student Environmental Leadership, and Local Funding Opportunities. Here are a few particularly useful contacts to have on hand:

*Help with recycling:*

**Baltimore Department of Public Works**

Natasha Neale, Recycling Program Associate

Natasha.Neale@baltimorecity.gov

410-396-4511

<http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/Recycling.aspx>

*Free trees and help with school tree plantings:*

**Tree Baltimore**

Charles Murphy, Operations Manager

Charles.Murphy@baltimorecity.gov

410-458-7888

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/treebaltimore>

*Connect with experts in environmental health:*

**Maryland Environmental Health Network**

Allison Rich, Children’s Env. Health Specialist

allison@mdehn.org

<http://www.mdehn.org>

*Stormwater education, resources, and plant nursery:*

**Blue Water Baltimore**

Lisa DeGuire, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Ldeguire@bluewaterbaltimore.org

410-254-1577 x109

<http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org>

*Trained volunteers to help with garden projects:*

**Baltimore City Master Gardeners**

Naima Jenkins-El, Master Gardener Coordinator

naimaj@umd.edu

410-856-1850 x121

<http://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-city/urban-agriculture/master-gardeners>

*Info and resources on indoor air quality and asthma:*

**Asthma Friendly Schools Program**

Margaret Schnitzer, Program Manager margaret.schnitzer@baltimorecity.gov

410-396-3896

<http://health.baltimorecity.gov/node/454>

*“Zoo Lab” education programs:*

**Maryland Zoo in Baltimore**

Sharon Bowen, Education Manager

sharon.bowen@marylandzoo.org

443-552-5299

<http://www.marylandzoo.org/edzoocation/school-programs/zoolab-topics/>

*Small grants, plant give-aways, and education:*

**Parks and People Foundation**

Kelly MacBride-Gill, Community Greening Assistant

kelly.macbride-gill@parksandpeople.org

410-448-5663

<http://www.parksandpeople.org>

*Free visits, education, and internships:*

**Baltimore City Public Schools’ Great Kids Farm**

Beth Mathie, Farm Educator

bmathie@bcps.k12.md.us

410-744-1096 <http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/greatkidsfarm>

*Info on saving energy and money:*

**Baltimore Energy Challenge**

Becca Bakre, Associate Director

bbakre@baltimoreenergychallenge.org

443-869-2614

[baltimoreenergychallenge.org](http://baltimoreenergychallenge.org/)

Baltimore Energy Challenge Requirement

All schools receiving Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge grants must work with the Baltimore Energy Challenge (BEC) to include a component of energy conservation activities to their project. See below for types of activities available. This requirement does not apply to schools that receive a 2015-2016 BEC Energy Hub School grant (visit [www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org/schools) to learn more).

