



December 9, 2025

Dear Odette Sison Wilkins,

On behalf of the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, it is our great pleasure to congratulate Baltimore International Academy East on being selected as a recipient of funding from the 2025–2026 Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge (GHSC), made possible through generous support from Baltimore Gas & Electric, Fund for Change, the Krieger Foundation, and Constellation (an Exelon Company). We are inspired by your students' ideas and look forward to seeing the impact of your Revitalizing Our Pollinator Garden project this spring.

Since its launch in 2010 with just 16 schools, the GHSC has grown to engage three-quarters of all Baltimore City Public Schools. This success would not be possible without the creativity, leadership, and commitment of educators like you, who empower students to make their schools—and our city—more sustainable and resilient.

Unfortunately, due to budget limitations this year, schools will receive up to 60% of the eligible funding amounts. As a result,

- If your school is certified as a Green School by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), you are eligible to receive up to \$1,080, and
- If your school is not certified by MAEOE, you are eligible to receive up to \$780.

We appreciate your understanding and continued dedication to sustainability education despite these financial constraints.

To receive your school's funding, please submit an updated budget spreadsheet reflecting how your team plans to use the revised award amount as described above by Wednesday, December 31st. If your project description has changed as a result of this adjustment, please also include an updated project description for review. Please send your updated budget and project description to Ebone Smith (ebone.smith@baltimorecity.gov). Once your revised materials are received and approved, your school's funds will be disbursed via City Schools' interoffice mail.

By participating in the GHSC, your team is advancing the Environmental Literacy vision of the *2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan*, which calls for “all school communities to prepare students to make informed decisions about the environment, to participate in civic action for the well-being of nature, and to understand humans' place in the world.” To explore additional resources, please visit <https://www.baltimoresustainability.org/plans/sustainability-plan> to view the Baltimore Sustainability Plan or <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/sustainability> to find City Schools Sustainability Resources.

We are thrilled to have your school and students involved in this project, and we know that it will be a great success. Thank you for your efforts to make the City Schools and Baltimore more sustainable. If you have any questions, need support, or intend to change your project from what was proposed, please contact Ebone Smith at Ebene.Smith@BaltimoreCity.gov and Joanna Pi-Sunyer at JPi-Sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us.

Thank you for your continued commitment to making Baltimore schools greener, healthier, and smarter. We look forward to supporting your efforts throughout the school year.

With appreciation,

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Ebone Smith

Community and Youth Engagement Coordinator

CC:

Principal Elena Lokounia, Baltimore International Academy East

Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Sustainability Analyst, Baltimore City Public Schools