



# **MOBILIZE FREDERICK**

## **CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION WORKGROUP**

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

**Mobilize Frederick and Green Schools**

**March 22, 2022**

Green Schools are more than just LEED certified buildings; they are our students, staff and communities. Every FCPS school—regardless of its age, location and campus amenities—can achieve Maryland Green School certification by adopting sustainable practices, incorporating systemic environmental education, and guiding science-based student action.

### **Who we are:**

Mobilize Frederick is a volunteer-based group of city and county community members who are collaborating with local government and agencies to advance recommendations from the Climate Response and Resilience report from 2021 (found at [mobilizefrederick.org](http://mobilizefrederick.org)). In 2020, both Frederick City and Frederick County adopted resolutions to create a Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup to produce a local roadmap for a healthy climate future. Fifty citizen volunteers from the fields of science, education, agriculture, construction and other experts studied the science, weighed the risks and developed 40 recommendations designed to steer policy and legislative actions to reduce our carbon emissions, drawdown carbon, and develop climate adaptation measures. Education is a key component of this plan.

### **Recommendation 37: Build climate-resilient school communities**

**Goal: all FCPS schools will be certified MD Green Schools by 2035**

### **Why Green Schools:**

Legislation was passed in 2019 that provides funding to increase Green Schools in MD by 50%. The MD Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) reports multiple benefits of Green Schools, such as empowering students with conceptual tools to imagine a more positive future, significantly improving future expectations and supporting the mental health and emotional needs of students; promoting inclusivity and empathy by addressing social justice issues created by disparate impacts of the changing climate; and increasing overall academic and life skills achievement and civic responsibility. And, Green Schools save money by engaging

students and staff in responsible behaviors that conserve water and energy; divert food waste through composting; restoring nature and natural systems on school grounds, reducing grounds maintenance costs, and more. Green Schools and accompanying curricula are important for preparing students for future careers and enticing citizen participation in climate-specific actions.

**Short-term Goals:**

Mobilize Frederick aims to collaborate with interested teachers and schools to increase the number of Green Schools, including those in minority/low-income communities, *AND* from these experiences develop an effective and inclusive community-wide strategy for moving FCPS forward in achieving the long-term goal.

Successful Green School models in Maryland typically include a centralized structure or central office position intended to support every Green School and leader; incentives for schools and compensation for leaders; a sustainability policy that includes equity; project-driven learning opportunities; a healthy school environment/building; outdoor learning spaces; community partnerships; opportunities for student leaders; and the collaboration of Operations/Facilities. Community-based Green Centers are instrumental in providing resources, expertise and opportunities. The Green Schools framework has been in existence since 1999, yet only 6 public schools in Frederick County are certified. Many Maryland school districts have set goals, including three that aim to have 100% of their schools in the Green School program.

**Contact:**

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