

Sandy Spring Friends School | Green Schools Application | Objective 3

3.1.1 School Active in the Community

Describe at least one environmentally-focused partnership in which your school is working to benefit your community through an environmental service project.

Feeding America / Empty Bowl Project | May 18, 2025

Sandy Spring Friends School maintains a long-term partnership with Feeding America through our annual Empty Bowl Project. Sustained since 2005, this student-led arts and service initiative is embedded in both curriculum and community life. Over the course of a year, students, parents, staff, and families work together in our pottery studio throwing, shaping, and glazing bowls, often contributing to pieces begun by someone else. The following year culminates in a community dinner where the bowls are displayed and offered for donation. All proceeds support Feeding America. This ongoing cycle of shared creation and service reflects SSFS's commitment to environmental justice, community health, and equitable access to food.

Documentation/Files/Images:

- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Instagram Post](#)
- [SSFS Webpage: Empty Bowl Project](#)

Manna Food Center / Smart Sacks | Ongoing

Sandy Spring Friends School has an ongoing partnership with Manna Food Center through the Smart Sacks program, which helps address food insecurity in Montgomery County Public Schools. Every other week, Lower School students pack bags of donated food to provide weekend breakfasts and lunches for children in need. Through this hands-on work, students learn about sustainable food systems, the value of reducing waste by redistributing food, and how caring for their community is part of environmental stewardship.

Documentation/Files/Images:

- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [SSFS Webpage: Smart Sacks](#)