



Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) School Sustainability Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, February 27, 2025, 3:00-4:00 PM

Attendees

Laura Collard (Working Group Co-Chair), Stephanie Tuckfield (OLP Co-Chair's Designee), Larissa Pasco, Victoria Howard, Maria Prawirodihardjo, Mary Westlund, Payton Hesse, Olivia Wisner

Welcome & Meeting Began at 3:00

Suggestions from Chesapeake Bay Program: Sustainable Schools Goal

- o Current Environmental Literacy Goal and Outcomes:
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/goals/environmental-literacy>
- o The Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup plans to suggest removing the Sustainable Schools Outcome from the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement and tracking Sustainable Schools certification as an indicator of the updated Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome
- o Tracking the Beyond 2025 Effort at the Chesapeake Bay Program will be a standing agenda item going forward

MAEOE Sustainable Schools Summit Review and Potential Next Steps

- o MAEOE hosted its 40th Annual Conference on Feb 6th – 9th which included a Sustainable Schools Summit.



- Included presentations from: Dr. Susan Johnson, Chief Operations Officer & Janel McPhillips Supervisor, Elementary Science, Service Learning, CHESPAX, Environmental Science (Calvert County Public Schools). Anisa Heming, Director of the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council.
- Ask for this working group to consider: How could the Summit be influenced by the OLP Sustainable Schools Working Group in the future?

Goals and Priorities as Defined by the OLP Executive Order

- [Executive Order 01.01.2024.15](#)
 - OLP Responsibilities name that OLP shall “foster collaboration, coordinate resources, and deliver recommendations to decision makers in order to equitably ensure that Maryland's Local Education Agencies lessen the environmental impact of their school buildings and grounds on their local watersheds (EO Section E. 2. d.).
 - This provides the basis for the School Sustainability Working Group description (on [OLP's website](#)).
 - The EO also states that “reducing the impact of Maryland's school buildings and grounds on their local watershed fosters an environmental stewardship ethic among students, builds community resilience, and prepares the State's communities for climate impacts.”
 - Improving school sustainability efforts reduces environmental impacts as well as presenting opportunities for students to “learn about and connect with nature and develop environmental literacy.”
- Prior iterations of the Partnership have addressed School Sustainability by recommending to:



- “Establish a comprehensive initiative to green all schools and school grounds, and embed schoolyard habitat programs as integrated indoor and outdoor instructional components of the curriculum, to create opportunities for outdoor learning experiences for students and members of the community.” ([2009 CIN Annual Report](#))
- “Establish a sustainable schools team at the state level to support school districts in developing and implementing sustainability plans.” ([2018 PGC Recommendations](#))
- Suggested back-mapping to structure your meetings for 2025 can be found on page 5 of 7 of the [OLP Working Group Chair Welcome Packet](#)
- Recommendations should be drafted by August 29th
- Potential Sustainable School Working Group actions for 2025
 - A map of who’s who in the Sustainable Schools program. What agencies have resources to support sustainable schools' efforts. Perhaps similar to:
<https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-04-24-Toolkit-for-Sustainable-and-Healthy-Schools.pdf>
 - Share back to the full OLP
 - Connect with Maryland Commission on Climate Change Education, Communication and Outreach Working Group (ECO)
 - External communication
 - Connect with School districts to better understand their needs. Idea: use information from the Green School Applicants to gather that information. Idea: Focus group or survey of schools' sustainability staff



- Develop a toolkit for Sustainable Schools staff at the school-level and the district-level. Pair with a recommendation to the Governor's Office to promote that toolkit.

Who is Missing or Should Be Included

- Consider inviting folks for a special presentation to this working group.

Next Steps

Call to Action for Members:

- Fill out survey to find next meeting time;
- Review recommendations from previous iterations of the Partnership; and
- Review [WH Toolkit for Sustainable and Healthy Schools](#).

Sustainable Schools Working Group

- Laura plans to get input from the OLP Sustainability Working Group to develop the next Sustainable Schools Summit
- In the future the OLP Sustainable School Working Group members could share brief presentations of their work. Potential topics: Agency goals and challenges, Green Ribbon Schools Program, LEED school buildings in Maryland, funding decarbonization, school grounds for learning, etc.
- Interest in sharing current resources around Sustainable Schools at the full OLP meetings.

Meeting Closed at 4:00