



Sustainable Schools

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: *Sustainable Schools*

Outcome:

Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the impact of their buildings and grounds on their local watershed, environment and human health through best practices, including student-led protection and restoration projects



What We Want



- Formal letter to US Dept of Education highlighting the importance of Green Ribbon Schools Program
- Identify appropriate state reps for CBP Sustainable Schools participation
- Delegate coordination role to EPA or other appropriate federal agency

Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?

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What's a “Sustainable” School

CBP Partners have agreed to the sustainability criteria set by the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon School Program. A Sustainable School is one that has programs and policies that:

1. Reduce environmental impact and costs;
2. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
3. Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

Many Organizations Involved in School Sustainability



Pathways to Green Schools →



Sustainable School Certification Programs





Factors Influencing

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-State-level Advocacy for Environmental Literacy

-Local Education Agency Support for Environmental Literacy

-Education Reform

-Funding to Support Student Experiences and Sustainable School Projects

-Culture Disconnected from Nature

-Decision Making Authority

-Underrepresented Stakeholders



Current Efforts and Gaps

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- State-level promotion and coordination of GRS program
- Development and support of school certification programs
- School implementation training materials developed/under development

However, GRS participation is waning and some state-level programs are at a stand-still while others excel



Management Approaches

Management Approaches

- Promote and strengthen “sustainable school” certification and recognition programs consistent with high-quality, objective, and agreed-upon criteria such as the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School program.
- Broaden stakeholder engagement to include focus on health, including health and nutrition, indoor air quality, chemicals, pest management, and other issues that might adversely affect health at schools.

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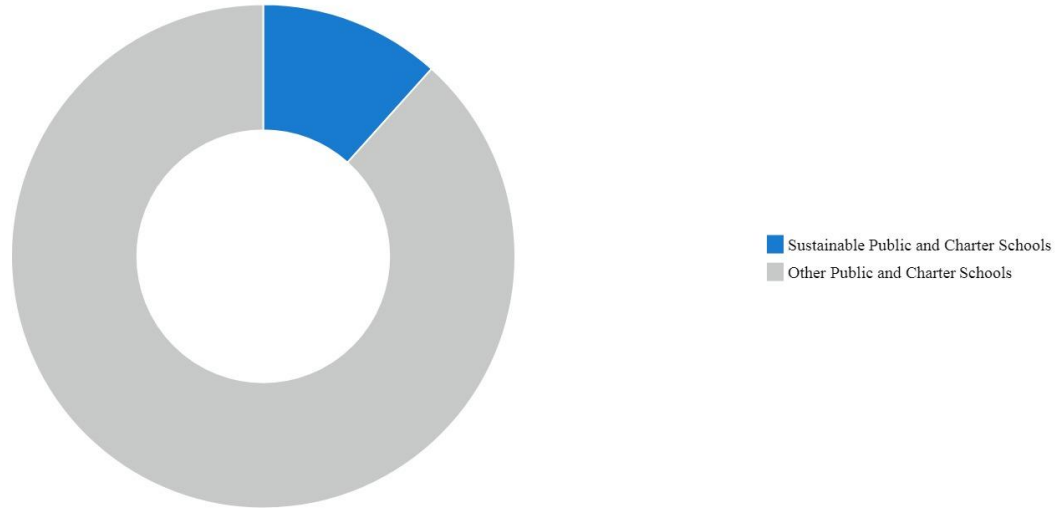
Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?



Sustainable Schools in the Watershed

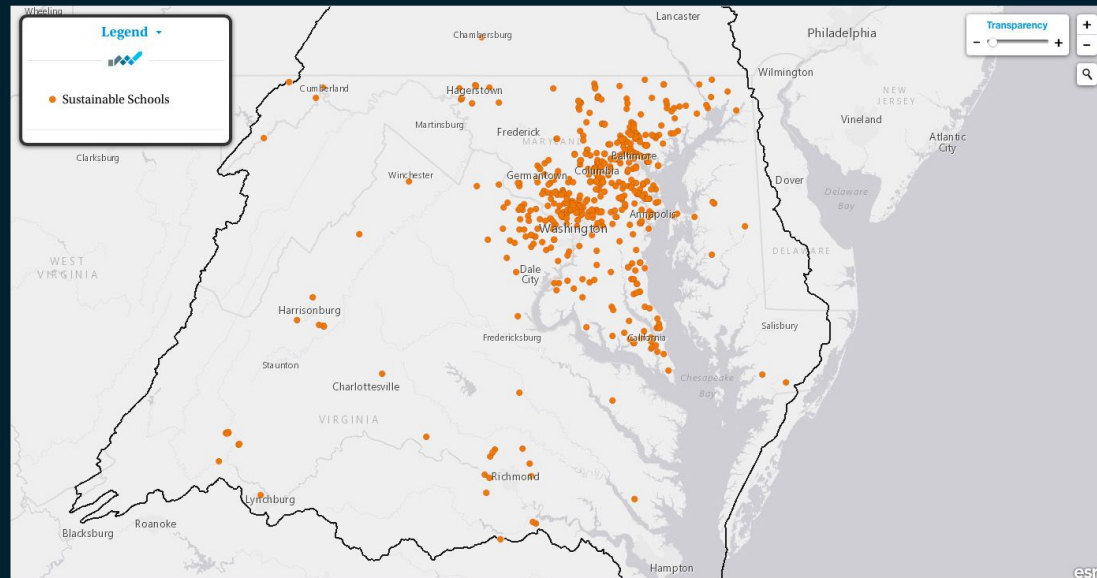
Certified Sustainable Schools in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2015)





Sustainable Schools in the Watershed

Certified Sustainable Schools in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2015)



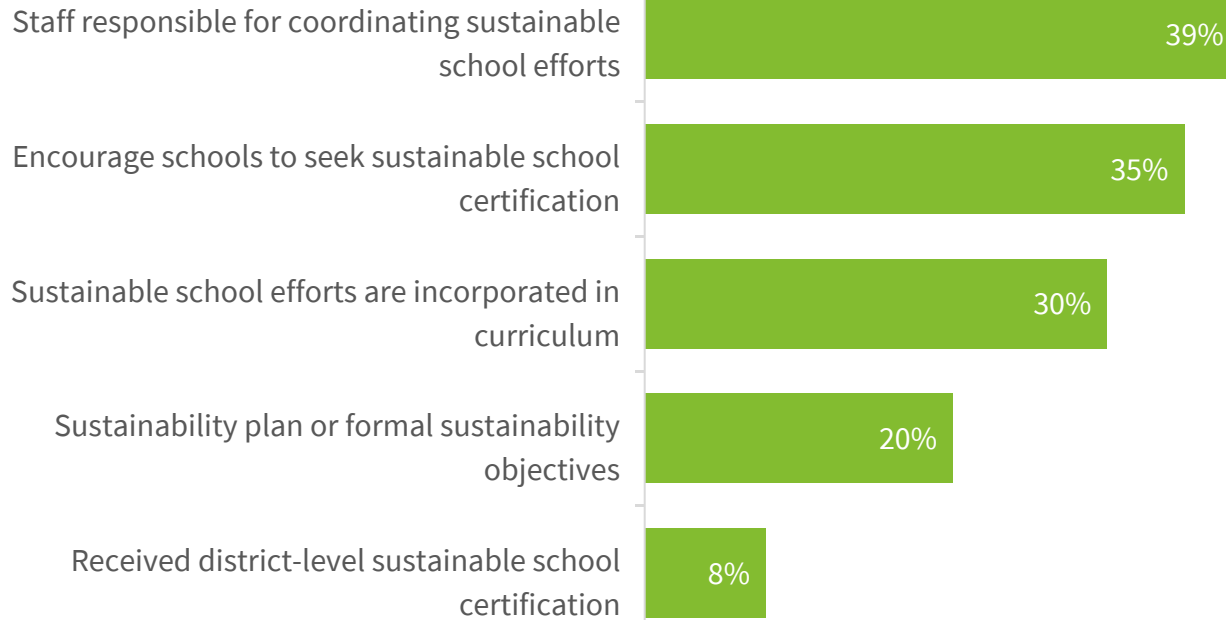


Are we on track?

- No specific target originally identified
- From 2015-2017, increase of 109 sustainable schools (from 501 to 610)

Indicator Data:				
Sustainable Schools in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed				
Jurisdiction	Number of Sustainable Schools by school year		Total Schools	Percent Sustainable Schools of Total Schools
	2015-2016	2016-2017		
DC	4	4	247	2%
DE	0	0	23	0%
MD	410	503	1377	37%
NY	0	0	205	0%
PA	1	1	990	0%
VA	86	102	1365	7%
WV	0	0	103	0%
TOTAL	501	610	4310	14%

Needs and status





Analysis

Critical Actions to Date

- CBT grants to support state-level programs
- Bay Program support for stormwater on school grounds
- MAEOE, NOAA “School Projects” initiative for Bay Backpack completed
- NWF Eco Schools has partnered with several states



Analysis

Critical Actions Going Forward

- Finalize Stormwater on Schoolground project
- Continue to engage with U.S. Dept of Education on GRS
- Strengthen and coordinate CBP Sustainable Schools Team
- Convene stakeholders regionally and/or within states

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Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?



Challenges

- Components of a sustainable school (“green” buildings practices, student health, environmental education) are typically managed by different offices within state, local, and building levels (facilities). Coordination across offices is lacking
- Disconnect between school sustainability and environmental literacy
- In some jurisdictions (e.g. VA) different organizations offer certification
- Support is needed for incremental implementation and recognition of sustainability, full sustainability is daunting and not feasible in the short term

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Adaptations:

How should we adapt?



Based on what we've learned, we plan to...

- Reduce the number of Management Approaches and Actions;
Focus on collaborative actions
- Promote Bay Backpack to align sustainable school practices with student learning
- Encourage and support the development and coordination of diverse state-level sustainable school workgroups
- Work with states to develop intentional connections among existing sustainability programs to provide schools multiple pathways to increasing sustainability



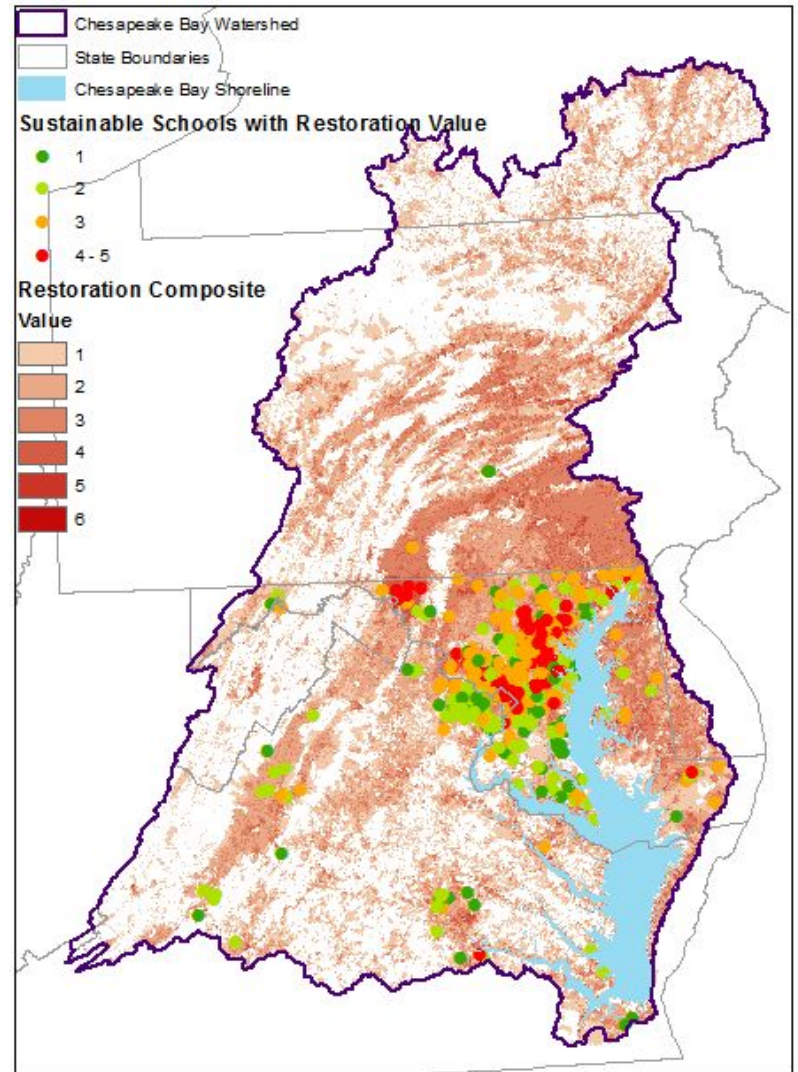
Cross-Outcome Considerations



Establish sustainable schools in areas of high restoration value

How schools can be used to help jurisdictions meet their WQ requirements

Sustainable Schools with Restoration Value





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Discussion