

1 Related Entries: DIE-RC, DJA, DJA-RA, ECF-RB, ECF-RC, EEA,  
2 EEA-RA, EEB-RA, KGA-RA, ~~ECM, ECM-RA~~  
3 Responsible Office: ~~Supportive Services~~ Office of the Chief of  
4 Finance and Operations

5  
6  
7 Sustainability ~~Energy Conservation~~

8  
9  
10 A. PURPOSE

11  
12 To affirm the Montgomery County Board of Education's  
13 commitment to sustainability practices, including energy  
14 conservation and efficiency

15  
16 To establish a framework and decision-making priorities for  
17 environmentally sustainable practices in Montgomery County  
18 Public Schools (MCPS)

19  
20 To promote effective educational opportunities that allow for  
students and staff to understand the consequences of human-  
induced environmental change on individual and collective  
health and well-being and consider the environmental impact  
and costs of decision-making at all levels

Code of  
Maryland  
Regulations  
(COMAR)  
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24

25  
26 To set the expectation for environmentally sustainable  
27 practices, equitably deployed across the MCPS system to  
28 promote the health and wellness of students and staff

29  
30 ~~To ensure that Montgomery County Public Schools pursues~~  
31 ~~energy conservation efforts and practices that continue to~~  
32 ~~preserve our natural resources while providing a safe and~~  
33 ~~comfortable learning environment for all staff and students~~

34  
35 **B. ISSUE**

36  
37 MCPS is among the largest school systems in the country, and  
38 the largest in the state of Maryland, in terms of enrollment.  
39 MCPS serves a county that encompasses approximately 500  
40 square miles, spanning from rural to urban settings, and whose  
41 tributaries feed into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Due to  
42 the number of facilities needed to support our educational  
43 mission, MCPS is one of the largest consumers of energy and  
44 other natural resources in the county.

45  
46 MCPS must intentionally, equitably, and progressively reduce  
47 its environmental impact and costs, while improving health  
48 and wellness, and provide effective environmental and  
49 sustainability education.

50  
51 A comprehensive approach to sustainability and environmental  
52 stewardship acknowledges the consequences of human-induced  
53 environmental change and the need for local actions that  
54 protect, sustain, or restore the environment; and requires  
55 practices that demonstrate responsible use of public funds  
56 by prioritizing investments that maximize adaptation,

Includes  
language  
from COMAR  
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and (4)

57 resilience and mitigation of the effects of climate change as  
58 well as efficient, sustainable use of land and resources.

59  
60 A key component of a sustainable environmental footprint is  
61 reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions wherever possible,  
62 both to benefit the environment and reduce energy expenses.

63  
64 The Montgomery County Board of Education ~~desires to work~~  
65 **(Board) collaborates** ~~with other agencies of federal, state,~~  
66 **and local partners** ~~government and plan school system~~  
67 ~~activities to solve regional problems, achieve optimal so that~~  
68 ~~the learning environments and functionality of essential~~  
69 ~~education programs and operations, using effectively and~~  
70 **equitably employed sustainability practices and technology.**

71 ~~are not curtailed or compromised. A key component of a zero~~  
72 ~~environmental footprint is reducing emission~~

73 ~~The nation is experiencing a depletion of its natural~~  
74 ~~resources which include crude oil, natural gas and other~~  
75 ~~energy sources. The Montgomery County Public Schools is~~  
76 ~~committed to reducing its consumption of natural resources~~  
77 ~~and still improving the quality of its educational programs~~

78

79 **C. POSITION**

80

81 **1. MCPS will incorporate sustainability priorities into**  
82 **decision-making processes based on equitable and**  
83 **strategic deployment of resources to address climate-**  
84 **based impacts on health, safety, and wellness and to**

85 achieve more energy-efficient and cost-effective school  
86 operations. MCPS supports and will be an active  
87 participant in achieving Montgomery County's goal to cut  
88 GHG emissions 80 percent by 2027 and 100 percent by 2035  
89 compared to 2005 levels.

90  
91 The Board is committed to innovative and systemwide  
92 sustainability to include -

- 93  
94 a) reducing the generation of GHG;  
95  
96 b) reducing systemwide energy use intensity and  
97 reliance on non-renewable resources;  
98  
99 c) increasing the generation and production of solar  
100 energy and use of other renewable energy sources;  
101  
102 d) identifying strategies that equip MCPS with  
103 resources and infrastructure necessary to withstand  
104 the impacts of climate change;  
105  
106 e) using waste reduction and GHG emissions as criteria  
107 in decisions related to purchasing, including, but  
108 not limited to, energy, transportation, and other  
109 operational areas; and  
110

111 f) improving the quality of MCPS operations and school  
112 environments to positively impact building occupant  
113 health and building system performance.  
114

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2. MCPS will fully comply with Maryland State Department of  
Education requirements for a comprehensive, multi-  
disciplinary environmental literacy program infused  
within current curricular offerings and aligned with the  
Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards that provide  
developmentally appropriate opportunities for students  
to investigate environmental issues in order to develop  
and implement local actions that protect, sustain, or  
restore the natural environment; and understand the  
environmental impact of human activity, the consequences  
of environmental change, and individual, collective, and  
societal responses to environmental change.

128 D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

130 1. In alignment with its core educational purpose to  
131 prepare all students to thrive in the future, MCPS makes  
132 sustainability a priority for present-day decision that  
133 impact students' lives.

135 2. MCPS minimizes its environmental impact and operational  
136 costs.

137

138 3. MCPS operational practices meet the immediate needs of  
139 the school system without compromising or burdening  
140 present and future generations.

141  
142 4. Staff and students are knowledgeable about the  
consequences of human-induced environmental change,  
and individual, collective, and societal responses to  
environmental change.  
145

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146  
147 5. Staff and students consider the environmental impact and  
148 costs of decision-making at all levels.

149  
150 6. MCPS ~~c~~creates and maintains a healthy and comfortable  
151 learning environments that achieve maximum energy  
152 efficiency with a consistent focus on sustainability.  
153 ~~while controlling energy consumption more efficiently~~  
154 ~~and diverting the otherwise rising utility costs towards~~  
155 ~~educational programs.~~

156  
157 7. MCPS implements operational practices and programs that  
158 achieve measurable reductions in GHG that align with the  
159 Montgomery County Climate Action Plan's GHG reduction  
160 targets.

161  
162 8. MCPS optimizes limited funding to achieve a  
163 sound, resilient, and sustainable educational  
164 facilities portfolio that accounts for variations in  
165 age, site conditions and geographic distribution.

166 ~~Continue development of energy conservation efforts that~~  
167 ~~proportionally reduces energy consumption in new and~~  
168 ~~existing facilities.~~

169  
170 **E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

171  
172 **1. The superintendent of schools/designee will shall**  
173 ~~continue to establish~~**maintain and enhance** procedures to  
174 ~~ensure the conservation of natural resources~~**promote**  
175 **environmental sustainability** by personnel at all levels  
176 of the school system, which shall include the following  
177 practices:

178  
179 **a) ~~g)Continuing reminders to staff and students of the~~**  
180 ~~need for conservation of all natural resources~~  
181 **Develop processes to establish and foster an**  
182 **organizational culture and operational procedures**  
183 **that foster creativity, cross-departmental**  
184 **collaboration and innovation to implement systemic**  
185 **climate solutions.**

186  
187 **a)b) Infuse sustainability concepts across school**  
188 **curricula and professional development to provide**  
189 **opportunities that allow students and staff to gain**  
**an understanding of individual, collective, and**  
**societal responses to human-induced environmental**  
**change; and engage in climate solutions,**

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193 preparedness/adaptation responses, and  
194 environmentally sustainable practices.  
195

196 2. The superintendent of schools/designee will identify  
197 actions that can be taken immediately and longer term to  
198 reduce the generation of GHG and consumption of  
199 nonrenewable resources, and increase efficiency,  
200 including, but not limited to, the following:  
201

202 a) Actively manage energy and water consumption by  
203 using technology that can be viewed and monitored  
204 by building occupants and responsible operational  
205 personnel. ~~f) Procurement and consumption~~  
206 ~~management of fossil fuels and electricity e)~~  
207 ~~Monitoring the general operation and maintenance of~~  
208 ~~all heating, ventilation, and air conditioning~~  
209 ~~equipment.~~  
210

211 b) Use a wholesale managed approach for utility  
212 procurement and participate in coordinated efforts  
213 with federal, state, and local government agencies  
214 to establish appropriate resource conservation  
215 plans.  
216

217 c) Continued development and implementation of  
218 behavior-based ~~conservation~~ sustainability  
219 programs, including strategies to increase the

- 220 number of Maryland-certified Green schools and  
221 other programs.
- 222  
223 d) Convert or replace MCPS vehicles, as appropriate,  
224 from diesel and gasoline to electric, hybrid, or  
225 other more efficient or cleaner-fuel vehicles.  
226
- 227 e) Promote design strategies and retrofits to make new  
228 and existing buildings more sustainable and  
229 resilient by designing every construction project  
230 to maximize solar production potential and minimize  
231 energy use intensity, considering a  
232 balanced facilities and infrastructure portfolio  
233 across the system.
- 234  
235 f) Pursue energy savings infrastructure improvement  
236 projects in existing buildings through the use  
237 public-private partnerships and available grants  
238 and tax credits.
- 239  
240 a)g) Where possible, seek to collocate schools to  
241 facilitate compact growth, efficient use of public  
242 infrastructure, and adjacency to public services  
243 and amenities.  
244
- 245 h) Implement other measures to address resiliency and  
246 awareness, such as increasing the tree canopy and  
247 outdoor educational spaces on MCPS properties, and  
248 mitigating storm water runoff.

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- i) **Establish minimum sustainability requirements in MCPS procurement guidelines for -**
  - (a) **locally-sourced products;**
  - (b) **maximized waste reduction; and**
  - (c) **reusable or recyclable products and/or content,**
  - (d) **where available at scale at a fair and reasonable price, across all areas of operations.**

~~MCPS will participate in a coordinated effort by government authorities to establish appropriate resource conservation plans and utility price monitoring systems to ensure that public schools have adequate supplies of essential fuels and can obtain these at the best possible prices.~~

~~b) Development of acceptable energy conservation guidelines as outlined in the resource conservation plan~~

~~d) Performance of energy studies on all new MCPS construction~~  
~~1. Should natural resources be insufficient to meet normal operating needs, the superintendent will develop further plans for the consideration of the Board of Education to conserve energy.~~

**F. REVIEW AND REPORTING**

- 277 1. MCPS will update the inventory of GHG emissions for its  
278 facilities at regular intervals, with updates aligned  
279 with local reporting requirements.  
280
- 281 2. a) ~~Generation~~ MCPS will develop periodic a  
282 systemwide annual reports that outline goals, objectives  
283 and results of sustainability efforts in alignment with  
284 all federal, state, and local requirements. resource  
285 conservation plan. that outlines goals and objectives  
286
- 287 3. The Board will receive information about sustainability  
288 features in construction project updates, and MCPS will  
289 implement methods of sharing sustainability features of  
290 the MCPS facility portfolio with the public, such as  
291 websites and/or local signage.  
292
- 293 ~~42. Copies of this policy and the annual resource~~  
294 ~~conservation plan will be sent to appropriate school~~  
295 ~~system and county government officials. This policy and~~  
296 ~~related documents will be updated and shared in~~  
297 ~~alignment with federal, state, and local requirements.~~  
298
- 299 ~~4.5.~~ This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis in  
300 accordance with the Board of Education's policy review  
301 process.  
302  
303

304 **Related Sources:** Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article,  
305 §75-312.1, *School district energy policies*;  
306 Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article,  
307 §7-117, *Increasing the number of green schools*  
308 *in the state*; Code of Maryland Regulations,  
309 13A.04.17.01, Environmental Literacy  
310 Instructional Programs for Grades  
311 Prekindergarten-12; Montgomery County  
312 Executive Regulation 15-1: Solid Waste and  
313 Recycling; Montgomery County Climate Action  
314 Plan of 2021

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317 **Policy History:** Adopted by Resolution No. 654-73, November 13,  
318 1973; amended by Resolution No. 285-97, May 13, 1997; reviewed  
319 April 19, 2002; **amended**