

# An Introduction to MAEOE and an Overview of Environmental/Climate Education and Literacy in Maryland



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# Mission of MAEOE

MAEOE is...

MAEOE is a non-profit, membership association promoting environmental awareness by serving teachers, natural resource managers, nature center staff and environmental program managers with training, conferences, publications, programs and other resources.

MAEOE does...

MAEOE serves as a professional organization for the environmental education community.

This support of Maryland's environmental educators enables students to explore, investigate and act to improve the health of their schools and surroundings.

MAEOE commits to...

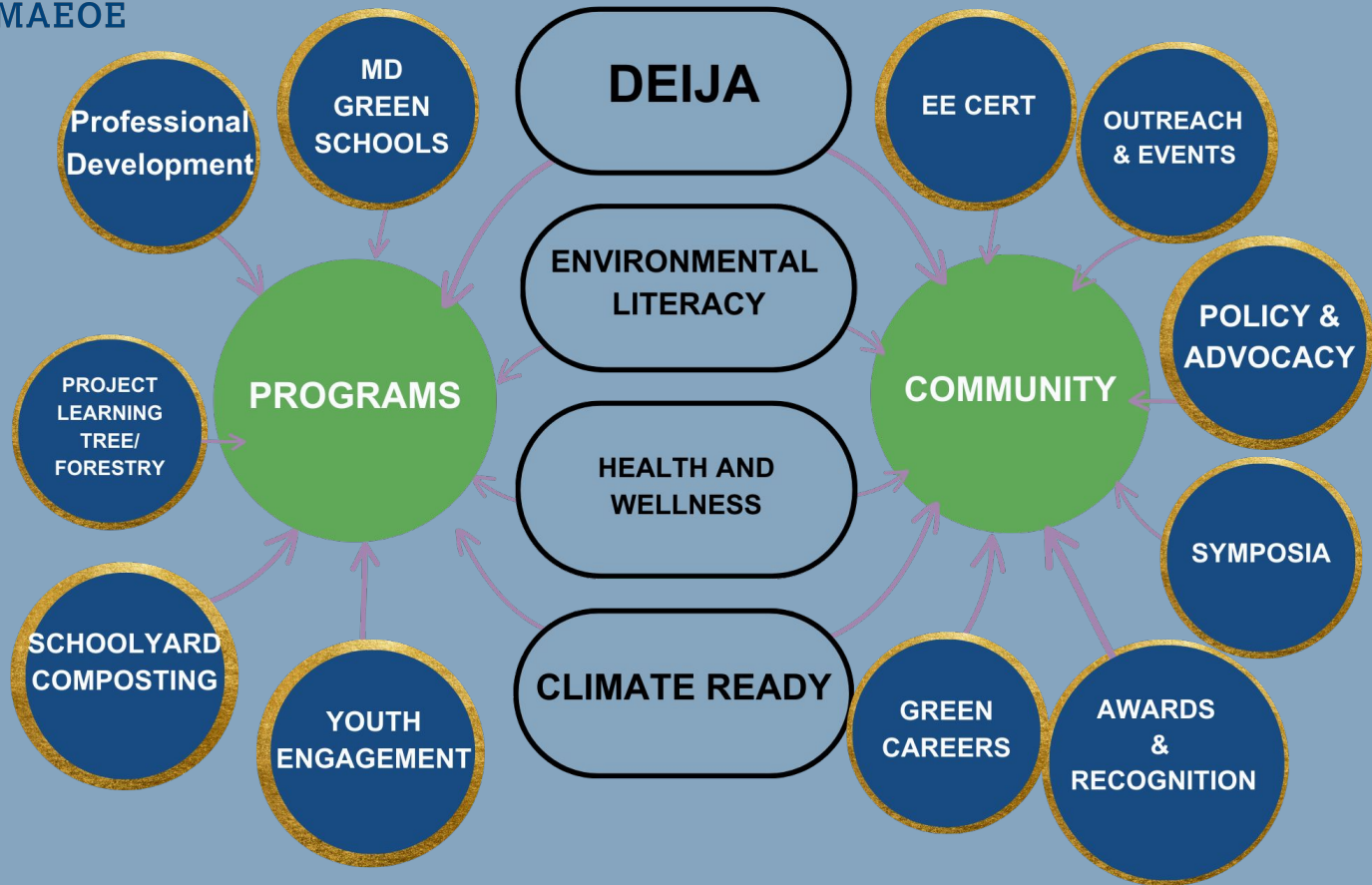
Meaningful change is the goal of MAEOE's collaboration with other environmental organizations to produce high quality educational programs and equitably promote environmental literacy throughout Maryland.

MAEOE is an affiliate of the North American Association of Environmental Education. ([NAAEE](#))



MAEOE

# WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MAEOE





# 2024 MAEOE CONFERENCE

## DEIJA SYMPOSIUM



**PANELIST**

**RAQUEL  
PINTO**



**PANELIST**

**RALINDA  
WIMBUSH**



**PANELIST**

**JASON  
FURLOW**



**PANELIST  
MODERATOR**

**COACH  
BILAL BIHAR**

## MAEOE DEIJA RESOLUTION:

MAEOE has been and will continue to be committed to the intentional integration of principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in our work.

We recognize that everyone is unique and that our individual differences, including the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, cognitive and physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies makes us a very diverse community.

MAEOE acknowledges the importance of dismantling systems of oppression and injustice that prevent equitable access to nature.

DEIJA Panel: Friday February 9, 2024 at the 2024 MAEOE Conference



Scan Here for Full Resolution

# MAEOE Environmental Education Certification Program

The MAEOE EE Certification Program is a portfolio-based certification program dedicated to improving training and resources for formal and non-formal environmental educators. Applications are accepted year-round, and participants may receive up to 3 MSDE CPD units!

Choose from one of two tracts:

## **Basic EE Certification**

For anyone starting out in the environmental education field

## **Advanced EE Certification**

For anyone with a minimum of five years of experience in the environmental education field

Contact [eecert@maeoe.org](mailto:eecert@maeoe.org) for more information!



**SCAN ME**

<http://tinyurl.com/4r5kzzmd>

# Planting Schoolyard Forests



**SCAN ME**

<http://tinyurl.com/4zxzbxab>

Interested in adding a schoolyard forest to your campus? Already planted trees at your school and want to take it to the next level? MAEOE wants your feedback!

Complete this survey to help us assess schools' abilities to plant schoolyard forests and learn how to best support you!

**Maryland Green Schools: 642**

**% of all schools in Maryland**

New Green Schools: 34      Recertification: 80  
\*Sustainable Schools: 30      \*\*Sustainable Bronze: 13

**Direct Impact in Maryland Schools:**

- 6,969 teachers
- 105,160 students

\*Sustainable Schools have been part of the program for 15 years.

\*\*Sustainable Bronze Schools are a new designation awarding schools that have been Green School certified for 21 years.

All Green Schools in Maryland are working to create a dynamic green culture.

For the full list of Maryland Green Schools visit [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org)



Prince George's County students storm drain stenciling.

**Environmental Impact (2022/23 School Year)**

*The metrics provide a picture of the positive impact that students have throughout the state of Maryland.*

*Projects included: water conservation, energy conservation, solid waste reduction, habitat restoration, structures for learning, transportation, healthy schools, community-building, and citizenship.*

**Check out our  
2022-2023 Maryland  
Green Schools Statistics!**



Caroline County Elementary School Students Adding native plants

*Sustainable Environmental action data collected from 157 participating schools.*

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Water Conserved                                    | 360,683 gal               |
| Rain Garden/Bio-retention area planted             | 116,578 ft <sup>2</sup>   |
| Stream Bank Planting                               | 31,480 ft <sup>2</sup>    |
| Stream Cleaning                                    | 50,220 ft                 |
| Energy Use Reduction                               | 177,227,256 kwh           |
| Green Energy Used                                  | 1,996,198 kwh             |
| Recycled Materials                                 | 3,061,015 lbs             |
| Created Native Habitat                             | 1,498,156 ft <sup>2</sup> |
| Created/installed bird houses                      | 499 houses                |
| Native Plants (shrubs and trees)                   | 2,722 plants              |
| Invasive Plant Removal                             | 806,745 ft <sup>2</sup>   |
| Outdoor Classroom                                  | 691 classrooms            |
| Outdoor Environmental Art                          | 1,490 pieces              |
| No-idling Zone                                     | 54 schools                |
| Plants for indoor air quality                      | 5,476 plants              |
| Edible Garden                                      | 13,175 ft <sup>2</sup>    |
| Outdoor running events and environmental festivals | 501 events                |

# MD Green Schools

## Deadlines:

- December 15, 2023 - Intent to Apply Due
- March 1, 2024 - Application Due - rolling

**# of Apps. expected for 2024 submission: 215**

## Important Links

- [Online Portal Page](#)
- [Green Schools Page/Requirements to Apply](#)
- [Resource Links](#)



# MAEOE Grant Opportunities

Check out our available grants and find a good fit for your program needs!

Not sure where to start?  
Email Carrie Shershanovich  
at [grants@maeoe.org](mailto:grants@maeoe.org).



SCAN ME

<http://tinyurl.com/mrxueet7>

## Teacher Stipend for Leading a Green Team or School Club

Stipend Amount: \$250

### Eligibility

- Be a teacher or staff at a Maryland school\*
- Lead a youth Green Team or other school club

### Guidelines:

- Sign an award letter agreement
- Meet with Green Team or school club at least 3 times
- Submit a student-driven sustainability project by 4/12/2024

\* Stipend to one teacher/staff per school **1**

## Transportation Grant

Grant Range: up to \$1000

### Eligibility

- Any public or private Maryland school or non-profit organization working with a school\*

### Guidelines

- Sign an award letter agreement
- Transportation to and from environmentally-focused field experiences or other relevant events
- Submit a final report

\* One grant per school/organization **3**

## Student Action Grant

Grant Range: up to \$2000

### Eligibility

- Any public or private Maryland school\*

### Guidelines

- Sign an award letter agreement
- Student action projects should exemplify students' voices and have an environmental focus
- Student action projects must occur on or before 6/7/2024
- Submit a final report

\* One grant per school **2**

## Teacher Professional Development Grant

Grant Range: up to \$3000

### Eligibility

- Any Maryland organization developing & facilitating environmental education PD for formal & non-formal educators\*

### Guidelines

- Sign an award letter agreement
- PD aims to build teacher capacity and comfort in leading environmentally focused lessons and field experiences
- Submit a final report

\* One grant per organization **4**

# CALLING ALL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## Are you currently:

- A school and/or community partner?
- Providing hands-on environmental education?
- Providing professional development opportunities for teachers?
- Taking steps to make your organization more sustainable?

## MAEOE INVITES YOU TO BECOME A CERTIFIED MARYLAND GREEN CENTER!

- Join a statewide network of nonprofit organizations with a common cause
- Become eligible for grant funding
- Expand your audience and increase student and teacher impact

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE:



## QUESTIONS?

Brenda Miller  
Education Coordinator  
engagement@maeoe.org

# CALLING ALL GREEN LEADERS

## We need your feedback!

Help us learn how to improve our Green Leader program to best support Maryland Green Schools by taking the survey below!



SCAN ME

<http://tinyurl.com/yn8zjvdb>



**MAEOE**

Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education



# MAEOE Youth Summit

Sandy Point State Park

May 30, 2024

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join MAEOE and Maryland Green Schools from across the state to celebrate our students and their achievements!

Need funding for transportation? MAEOE has you covered!

Applications for transportation funding will open on March 4, 2024.



# Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

## 2014 CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT Chesapeake Bay Program

1 Vision

10 Interrelated Goals

31 Measurable, Time-Bound Outcomes



# CBP Education Workgroup

Goal: every student in the region will graduate environmentally literate having participated in meaningful watershed educational experiences in elementary, middle, and high school that were supported by teachers who have received professional development in environmental education and schools that are models of environmental sustainability.

The Education Workgroup provides a forum for cross-jurisdictional coordination and support on all aspects of environmental education. Increasing

- place-based, outdoor education
- training for teachers and environmental education professionals in content, pedagogy, and outdoor-learning techniques
- Encouraging green infrastructure and operations on school grounds
- Supporting federal, state, and regional environmental literacy planning, including providing an ongoing forum to collaborate on the goals and objectives of the federal Executive Order and the nonprofit community Regional Roundtable.

The Education Workgroup is tasked with evaluating PK-12 bay education and recommending policies. The [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#) convenes a biennial Environmental Literacy Summit.



# Environmental Literacy **SUMMIT**

*Preparing our Schools for a  
Changing Landscape*

November 1, 2023



# Environmental Literacy

Having the knowledge, skills, and disposition to solve problems and resolve issues individually and collectively in a way that creates and maintains environmental and social well-being.



# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY GOAL

Enable students in the region to graduate with the knowledge and skills to act responsibly to protect and restore their local watershed



## STUDENTS ● ● ●

Hands-on student experiences (MWEEs)

## SCHOOLS ● ● ●

Sustainable school buildings, grounds, & operations

## PLANNING ● ● ●

Supportive policies and metrics at state & district level



# OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

## SYSTEMIC

Reaches the entire student population in one or more grades within a school district

## EQUITABLE

Accessible to all students with thoughtful differentiation

## SUSTAINABLE

Embedded into school district curriculum and supported with district resources

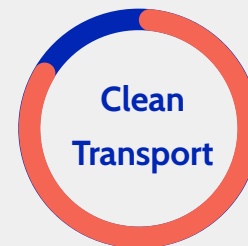
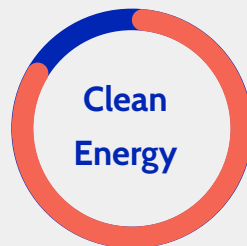
**SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL!**

# BUILDING GREEN CAREER PATHWAYS



Preparing students for jobs in the clean economy  
&  
Integrating environmental sustainability across  
all career pathways

# HIGH IMPACT ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS



# Climate Policies, Plans and Jobs

## **Pennsylvania - [PA Climate Action Plan \(2021\)](#)**

- Update aging stormwater infrastructure to be more resilient to climate change

## **Maryland - [Climate Solutions Now Act \(2022\)](#)**

- 100% Clean Energy by 2035

## **Delaware - [Climate Change Solutions Act \(2023\)](#)**

- Climate change officers in cabinet-level departments

## **District of Columbia - [Keep Cool DC \(2022\)](#)**

- Design for Heat - new buildings and development decrease UHI effect

## **Virginia - [VA High Performance Building Act \(2021\)](#)**

- New state buildings designed, constructed, verified, and operated to comply with the high performance building certification program

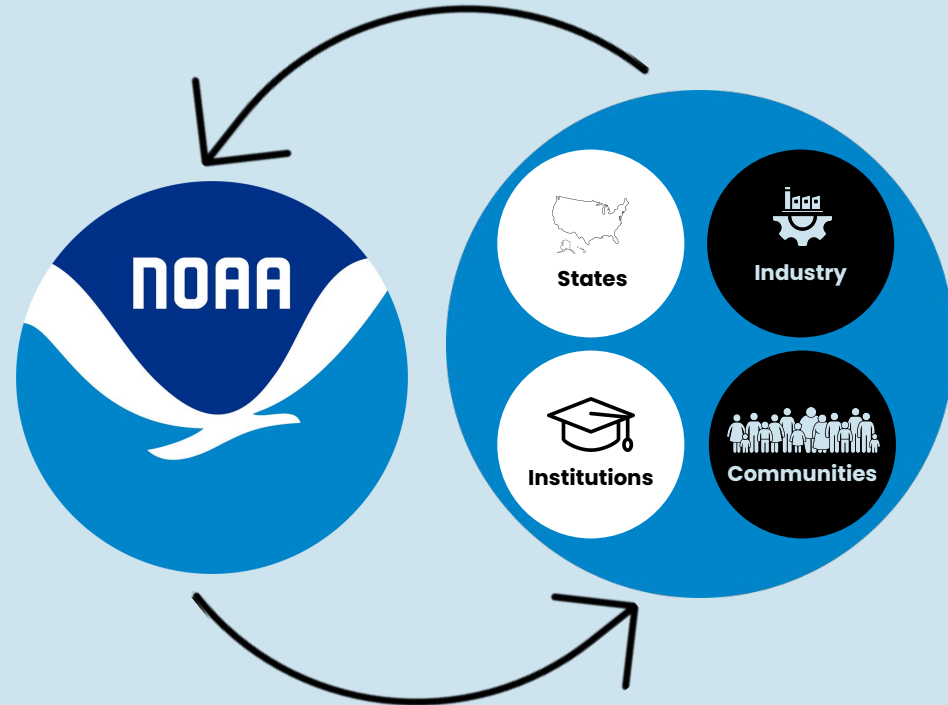
## **West Virginia - [Clean Cities Program](#)**

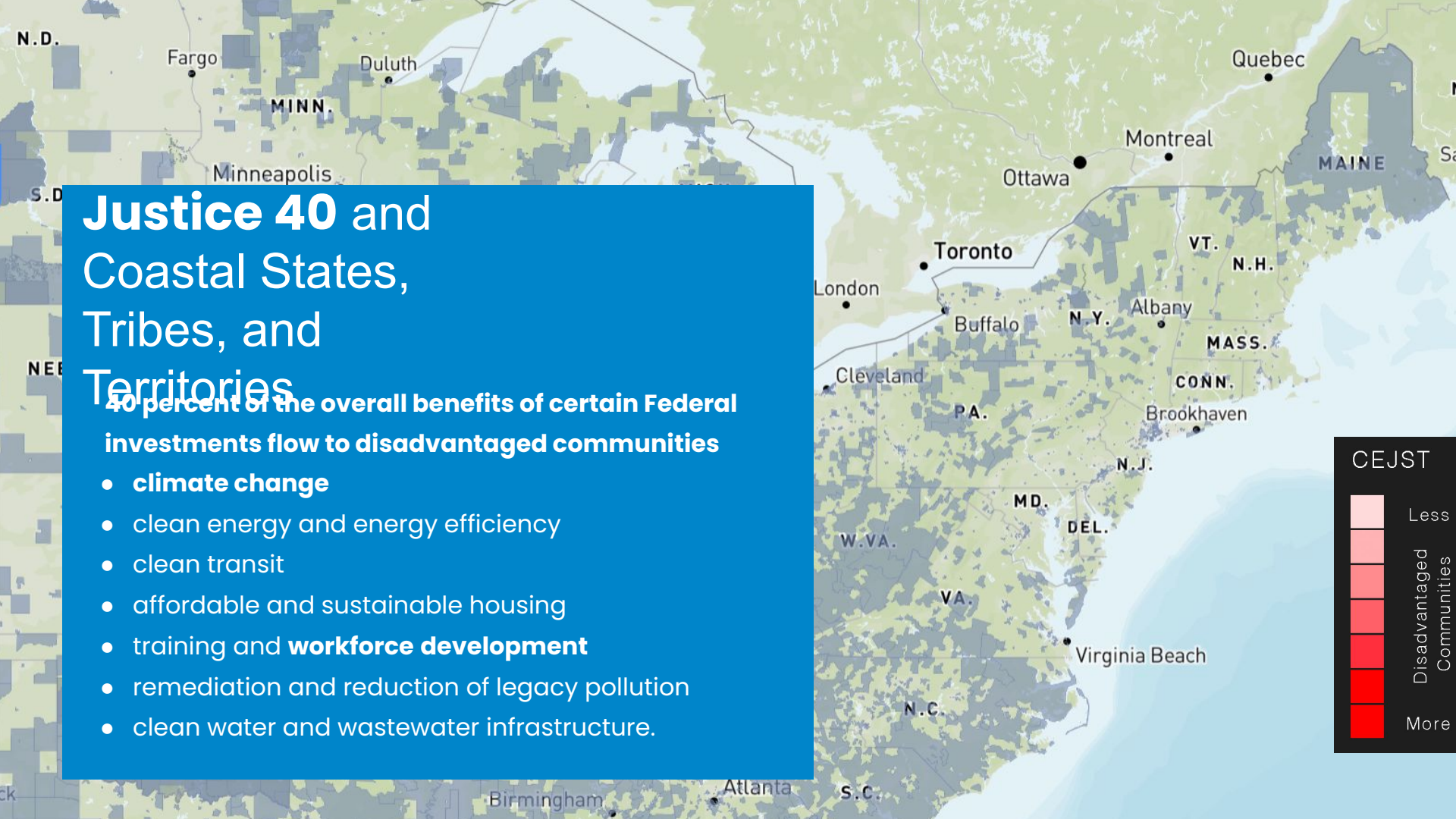
- Deploys technologies and practices including idle-reduction equipment, electric-drive vehicles, fuel economy measures, and renewable and alternative fuels



# NOAA Climate Ready Workforce Partnership Model

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>National Sea Grant Office</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NOFO processing and management</li><li>• Grants Administration</li></ul>  |
| <b>Climate Program Office</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate Resilience Technical Assistance</li><li>• Knowledge Sharing Platform</li><li>• Reporting &amp; Monitoring</li></ul> |
| <b>Office for Coastal Management</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training</li></ul>  |





# Justice 40 and Coastal States, Tribes, and Territories

40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities

- climate change
- clean energy and energy efficiency
- clean transit
- affordable and sustainable housing
- training and **workforce development**
- remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

CEJST



# U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Recognition Awards

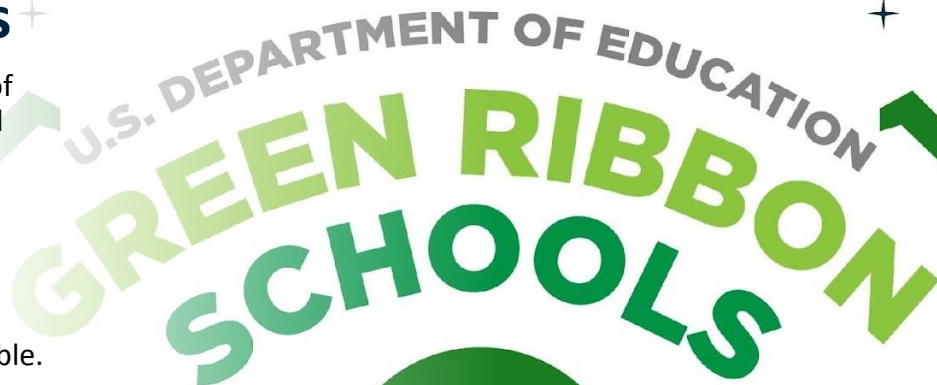
Federal recognition at the intersection of school facilities and grounds, health and wellness, and sustainability education.

States nominate to ED annually.

Schools, districts, postsecondary, early learning, public, private, charter all eligible.

Honorees announced around Earth Day and invited to send representatives to a summer ceremony in DC.

Since 2012, ED has recognized over 700 honorees from 46 different nominating authorities.

The logo features the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" in a grey, sans-serif font, arched over the top. Below it, "GREEN RIBBON" is written in a large, bold, light green font, and "SCHOOLS" is in a larger, bold, dark green font. The entire text is set against a background of a green ribbon graphic that forms a stylized house shape. A green circle with a white leaf icon is positioned at the bottom center. The background is decorated with several white four-pointed stars of varying sizes.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
GREEN RIBBON  
SCHOOLS



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS PILLARS AND ELEMENTS

### Pillar 1 REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Energy  
Water  
Waste  
Transport  
Emissions



### Pillar 2 IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Environmental Health  
Physical Activity  
Nutrition



### Pillar 3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

Green Career Pathways  
STEM  
Outdoor Learning



## EPA Air Quality Resources for Schools

- Clean School Bus Program: \$5 billion in grant funding to replace diesel school buses with electric buses.
- Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit shows schools how to carry out a plan to improve indoor air problems at little- or no-cost.
- Up to \$37.5 million to address greenhouse gas emissions and indoor air pollution in K-12 schools located in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. Applications will open in winter 2023.
- Community Change Block Grants Program: \$2 Billion for environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental justice challenges.





## Other Resources/Groups:

The Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Education (MACCE) hold a Conference in Spring that brings together formal and nonformal educators to share and learn about the latest trends in education for climate action.

North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Climate Change Education Policy (CCEP) National collaboration to create toolkits and resources to promote climate education and vet materials.

*Thank you*

*Laura Johnson Collard*  
*director@maeoe.org*



**MAEOE**

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