MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
Montgomery County Public Schools Sustainability Policy

OVERVIEW
• Affirms the Board of Education’s commitment to the County’s Climate Action Plan and establishes a framework for making decisions about sustainable practices in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).
• Commits to increasing the number of Maryland-certified Green Schools, a nationally recognized sustainable schools program.
• Promotes sustainability in teacher professional development and climate curricula for students.
• Commits to sustainability at the operational level by reducing emissions of GHGs and nonrenewable resources, and investing in school infrastructure improvements.

ADOPTED 6/28/22

YOUTH VOICE WAS CENTRAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS BILL

TARGET AUDIENCE
Montgomery County public schools, local school communities, school staff, and Montgomery County’s approximately 160,000 students will be impacted by this policy.

FUNDING
No funding is associated with this policy; however, the policy includes a commitment to collaboration with local, state and federal government as well as the use of public private partners, grants, and tax credits.

COALITION
Youth and community voice has been at the forefront of the climate movement in Montgomery County. Youth groups have advocated for refillable water stations in schools and led a petition and rally demanding that MCPS take action on climate change.

IMPACT
This bill commits the school district to the Climate Action Plan, which stipulates that they cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 compared to 2005 levels. Additionally, the policy works to center sustainability in every aspect of MCPS, from curriculum and professional development to school infrastructure and operations.