



NEWS RELEASE

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Interschool challenge underway focused on student environmental action

“Green 60: Our Planet, Our Home” organized by Baltimore County Student Councils Environmental Committee

Towson, MD – The Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC) Environmental Committee is hosting the inaugural “Green 60: Our Planet, Our Home” interschool challenge, beginning this week and continuing through Friday, April 23.

“The goal of Green 60 is to create a sense of community,” said Meghna Chandrasekaran, BCSC environmental affairs director and a senior at Western School of Technology. “We hope to promote environmentalism among students. We want to engage students at a young age so that, when they get to middle and high school, they are ready to be environmental leaders.”

All Baltimore County public schools are invited to participate. Participating schools can earn points based on the activities students engage in. At each participating school, a teacher must serve as the point of contact to submit reports on school activities. Students can direct message @bcscsocial on Instagram to find out if their school is registered. Teachers who want to represent their schools can send an email to megch725@gmail.com. Teachers who post their school’s Green 60 activities on social media are asked to use the hashtag #BCPSGreen60 and to tag @bcscsocial.

“Students and staff can participate in sustainable practices from their households or at school,” said Kelley Holocker, BCPS energy and sustainability analyst in the Office of Facilities Support Services. “The school with the most points at the end of the challenge will win prizes and recognition for their hard work!”

Schools are encouraged to participate in the following activities to earn points:

Elementary Schools

- Make a video/take photos of students cleaning up litter in their community or engaging in any of the Department of Facilities Management 10 Sustainability Practices: 10 points

- Bonus photo submission of students participating in sustainable practices: 2 points
- Create any form of art based on theme (Our Planet, Our Home): 3 points (if any reusable material is used, 6 points)

Middle Schools & High Schools

- Have a 30-minute litter pick-up session and send in a video that shows students cleaning up litter in their community or of them engaging in any of the Department of Facilities Management and Strategic Planning 10 Sustainability Practices: 10 points
- Bonus photo submission of participating in sustainable practices: 2 points
- Make a flyer/plan regarding how to keep your local environment clean and sustainable: 8 points
- Create any form of art based on theme (Our Planet, Our Home): 3 points (if any reusable material is used, 6 points)

Student committee members worked with Department of Facilities Management and Strategic Planning staff to develop suggested activities for the interschool challenge. The department has developed the following 10 sustainability practices:

1. Identify and slay “Energy Vampires” (electronics that are plugged in and consuming power even when not in use).
2. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
3. Pack a waste-free lunch (using reusable containers).
4. Conserve water (by taking shorter showers, turning off water faucets when not in use, and planting native plants).
5. Calculate your individual or family [carbon footprint](#).
6. Buy local food or goods.
7. Donate clothes or goods.
8. Pick up trash in your community.
9. Spread awareness with environmental education.
10. Participate in Green 60: Our Planet, Our Home.

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