

Green Happenings



A Brighter Shade of Green...

Harford County schools have always been active in environmental stewardship and resource conservation. In 1972, one of the first recycling centers on the east coast was established right here in our community by one of our science teachers and a motivated group of volunteer students. Since that time, the grassroots efforts have grown deep and strong. On September 14, the Board of Education and the Superintendent reaffirmed their interest in developing a more sustainable school system with the approval of the Energy and Resource Conservation Policy. This policy is one of the first steps in implementing the Energy Management Plan that the Board approved last school year. While our system has always benefitted from the environmentally conscientious efforts of our students, teachers, administrators and support staff, we now turn a new leaf on our green efforts. By adopting a formal policy toward environmental sustainability, we pledge our commitment to the school community and the community at large that we will strive to produce a healthy and motivating school climate.

Sustainability is defined as the ability of a system to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to exist. In the upcoming years we will be looking closely at how we design, build, maintain, and power our school buildings to meet our goal. The Office of Resource Conservation will look closely at all aspects of our organization to evaluate how we do business and how it impacts our environment. We will be working with schools to educate our students and staff and implement new programs. In the coming months you will see articles in the *Green Happenings* on **Single Stream Recycling, Green Cleaning** and **Energy Conservation**, as well as many other issues that impact our sustainability.