



# Sustainable Schools

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Education Workgroup Coordinator*

*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*



## **Outcome:** *Sustainable Schools*

*Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the impact of their buildings and grounds on their local watershed, environment and human health through best practices, including student-led protection and restoration projects*



## What We Want



- Send formal letter from Management Board to US Dept of Education supporting Green Ribbon Schools Program
- Identify coordinator for Sustainable Schools team from EPA or other appropriate agency
- Provide a list of appropriate state representatives for CBP Sustainable Schools team

# 1

# Setting the Stage:

*What are our assumptions?*







## What's a “Sustainable” School

1. Reduce environmental impact and costs;
2. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
3. Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.



# Why Sustainable Schools?



- Hundreds of thousands of acres
- Millions of square feet
- Millions of future decision makers

# Many Organizations Involved in School Sustainability



Pathways to Green Schools →



## Sustainable School Certification Programs







## **Factors Influencing**

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- State-level Coordination
- Education Reform
- Decision Making Authority and Underrepresented Stakeholders



## Current Efforts and Gaps

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#### EFFORTS

- State-level promotion and coordination of GRS program
- Development and support of school certification programs
- School implementation training materials developed/under development

#### GAPS

- GRS participation waning
- Some state-level programs at a stand-still



## Management Approaches

### Management Approaches

- Promote and strengthen “sustainable school” certification and recognition programs
- Broaden stakeholder engagement to include focus on health, including health and nutrition, indoor air quality, chemicals, etc.

# 2

## Progress:

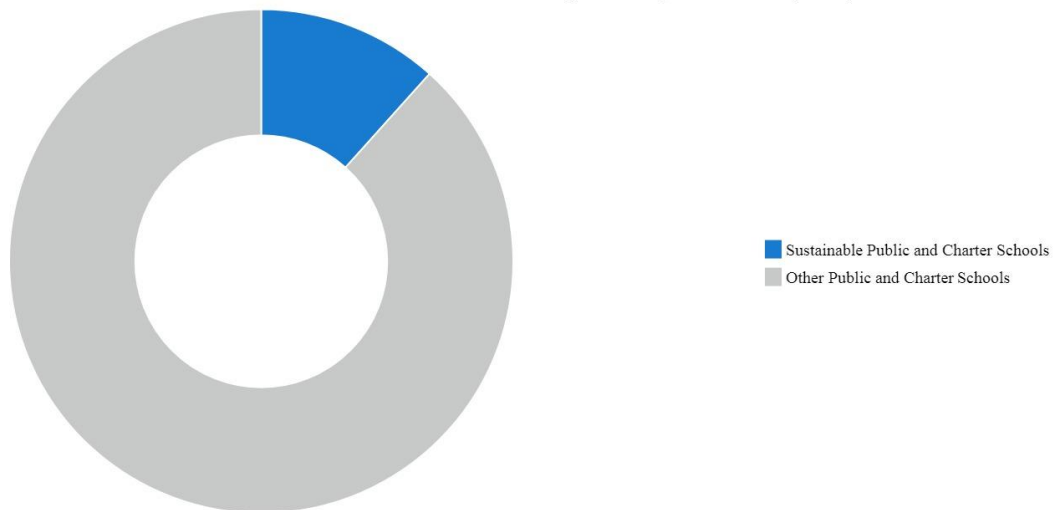
*Are we doing what we said we would do?*





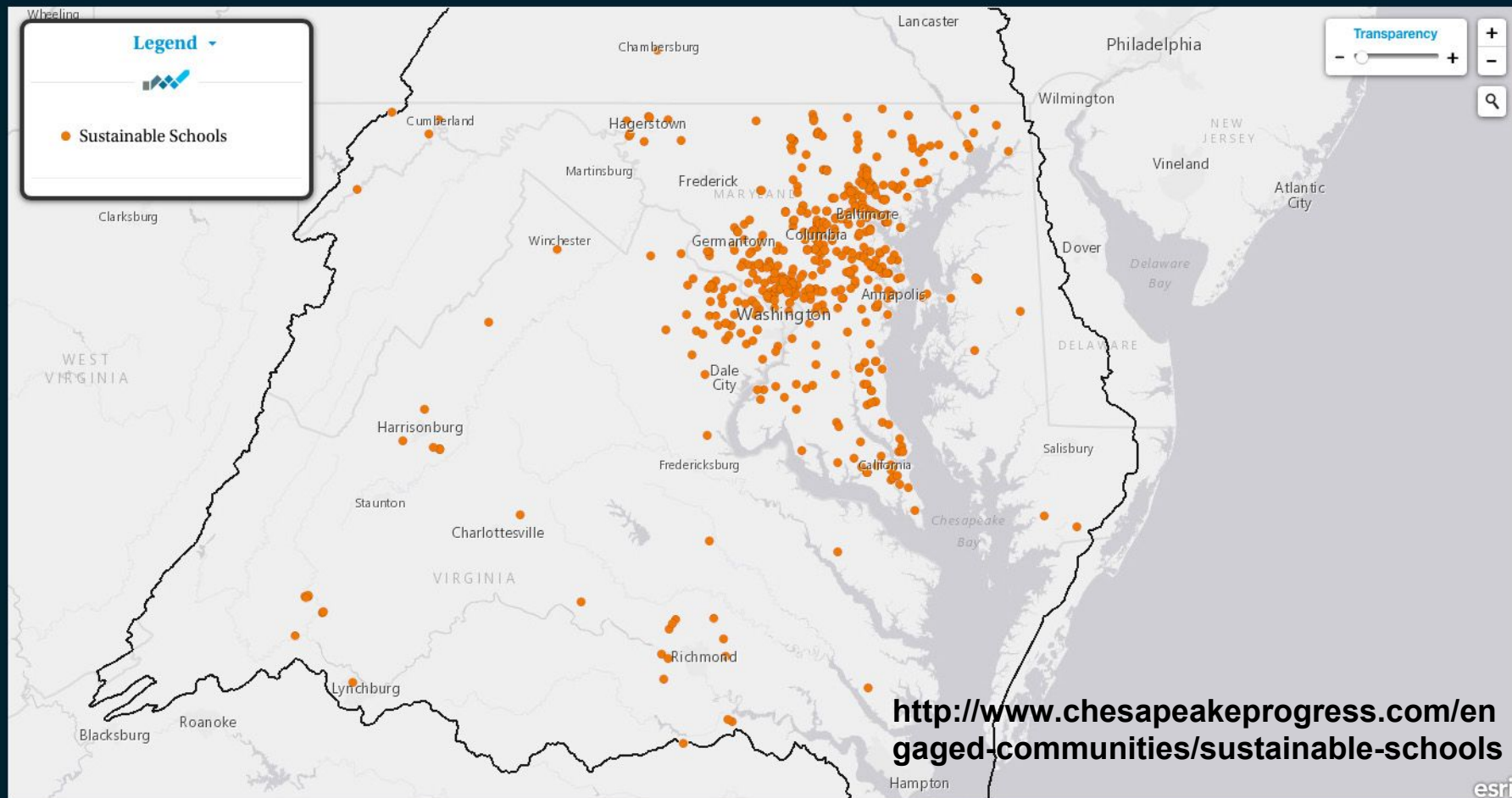
## Sustainable Schools in the Watershed

Certified Sustainable Schools in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2015)





# Certified Sustainable Schools in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2015)





## Are we on track?

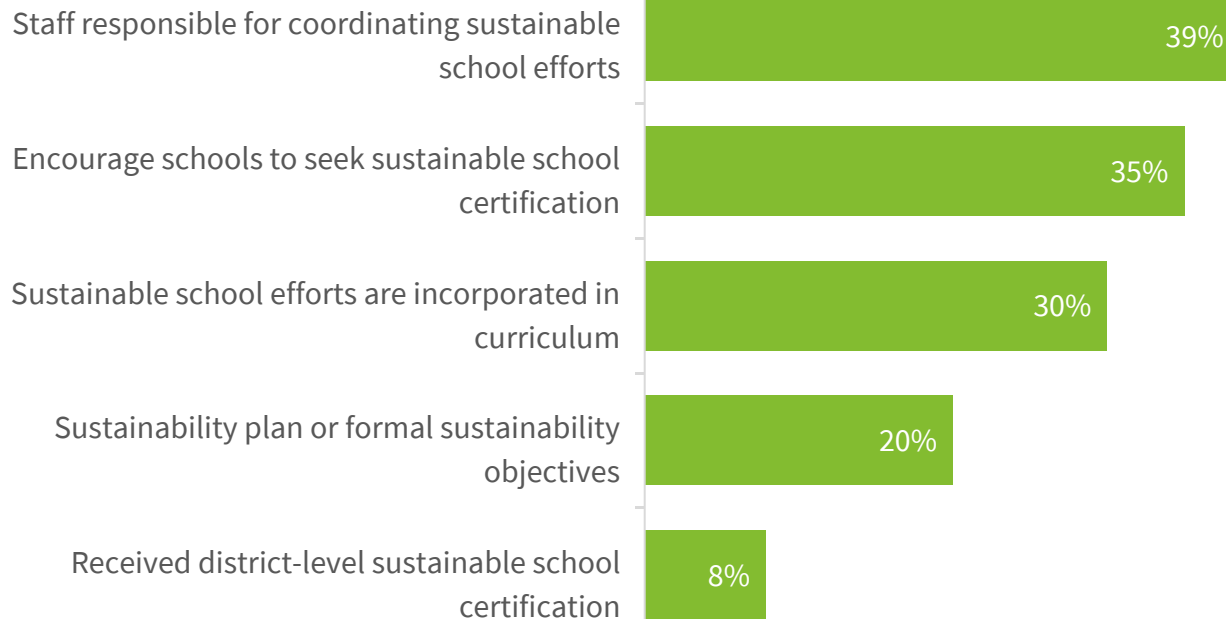
### Indicator Data:

#### Sustainable Schools in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Jurisdiction	Number of Sustainable Schools by school year		Total Schools	Percent Sustainable Schools of Total Schools
	2015-2016	2016-2017		
DC	4	4	247	2%
DE	0	0	23	0%
MD	410	503	1377	37%
NY	0	0	205	0%
PA	1	1	990	0%
VA	86	102	1365	7%
WV	0	0	103	0%
TOTAL	501	610	4310	14%

- No specific target originally identified
- From 2015-2017, increase of 109 sustainable schools (from 501 to 610)

## Needs and status

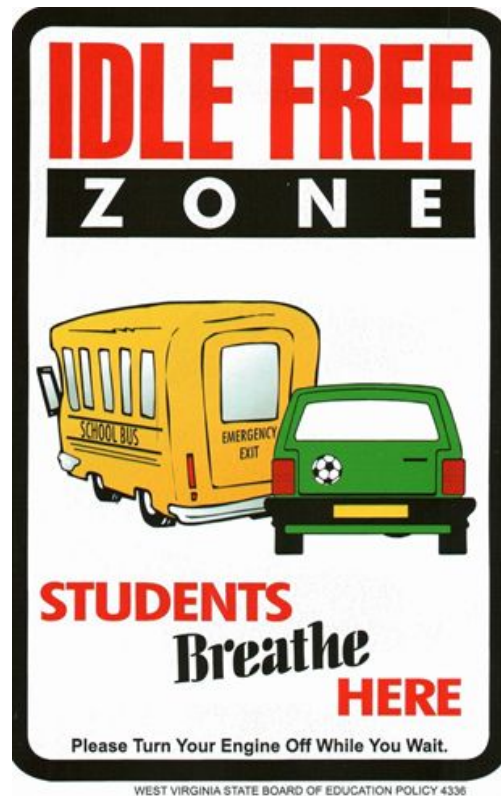




## Analysis

### Critical Actions to Date

- NOAA/CBT sustainable schools grants
- Stormwater on School Grounds Project
- School Projects” initiative for Bay Backpack
- NWF Eco Schools state partnerships





## **Analysis**

### **Critical Actions Going Forward**

- Finalize Stormwater on Schoolground project
- Continue to engage with U.S. Dept of Education
- Strengthen and coordinate CBP Sustainable Schools Team
- Convene stakeholders



# 3

## Challenges:

*Are our actions having the expected effect?*





## Challenges

- Coordination across stakeholders is lacking
- Disconnect between school sustainability and environmental literacy
- Multiple organizations offer certification (also an opportunity)
- Perception that sustainability is unattainable

# 4

## Adaptations:

*How should we adapt?*





**Based on what we've  
learned, we plan to...**

- Reduce the number of Management Approaches and Actions;
- Promote Bay Backpack
- Support development/coordination of state-level sustainable school workgroups
- Develop connections among existing sustainability programs



## Cross-Outcome Considerations

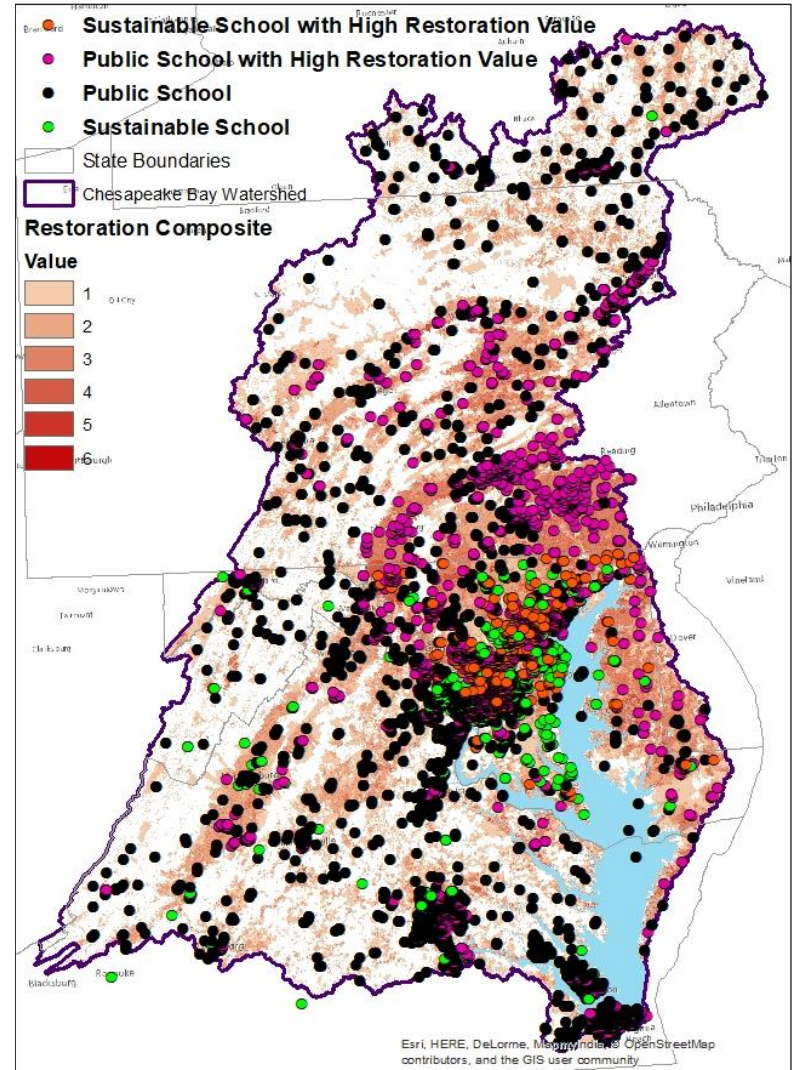


- Establish sustainable schools in areas of high restoration value
- How schools can be used to help jurisdictions meet their WQ requirements



## Sustainable Schools with Restoration Value

Identify schools where BMPs could have high environmental impact





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# Discussion