



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITMENT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ELECTRIFICATION

WHEREAS, by 2050, [Maryland is projected to experience around 40 days of dangerously high heat annually](#), a [50% increase in heavy runoff leading to devastating inland floods](#), and a [possible two-foot rise in the waters along Maryland's coast](#); and

WHEREAS the effects of climate change will touch every aspect of Baltimore County students' lives, as extreme weather patterns inherently impact school accessibility; and

WHEREAS, in the US, schools are one of the largest public sector consumers of energy, producing emissions equivalent to 18 coal-fired power plants or 15 million cars each year (K-12 Climate Action); and

WHEREAS, transportation is the top source of greenhouse gas emissions in Baltimore County accounting for [42% of total emissions](#); and

WHEREAS Buildings account for [39% of all carbon emissions in Baltimore County](#); and

WHEREAS [Buildings, wastewater pumping, and vehicles are the highest contributors to the Baltimore County Government's emissions](#); and

WHEREAS, the use of renewable electricity reduces greenhouse gas emissions relative to the use of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous grant programs in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and other Federal legislation, as well as [The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022](#) and other state/ local programs, to support the electrification of transportation and buildings; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County Public Schools is already committed to taking actions to shift away from fossil-fuel-based energy sources; and

WHEREAS, adopted in 2022, the Baltimore County Board of Education [Policy #3540 Energy Conservation and Sustainability](#) instituted guidelines and strategies for monitoring and reporting the amount of renewable energy sourced electricity, the percentage of the school system's annual electricity use that is from renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, [Policy #3540](#) established that all future school replacement and/or new construction projects shall be considered for a maximum LEED certification; and

WHEREAS, [The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022](#) requires all new school bus purchases and contracts to be electric by 2025 in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, electric vehicles, electric appliances, and battery-powered or electric plug-in landscape equipment generally can be operated and maintained at a lower cost than their fossil-fuel-powered equivalents; and

WHEREAS, the use of electric vehicles, electric appliances, and battery-powered or electric plug-in landscape equipment leads to better air quality and respiratory health outcomes for students and staff than their fossil-fuel-powered equivalents,

WHEREAS, “electrification” is defined by the International Energy Agency as the process of replacing technologies or processes that use fossil fuels, like internal combustion engines and gas boilers, with electrically-powered equivalents, such as electric vehicles or heat pumps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Baltimore County Public School District (“BCPS”) conduct a district-wide energy use audit and gas emissions audit to identify the areas in which it may improve its energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BCPS will electrify transportation to and from BCPS schools, and electrify appliances and landscape equipment, including, but not limited to, space and water heaters, cooking equipment, leaf blowers, lawn mowers, and trimmers used by BCPS schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BCPS will take the following specified actions in support of its efforts to electrify transportation, buildings, and landscape maintenance equipment in the school district:

- Identify Federal, Maryland, Baltimore County, and other grant, subsidy, rebate, and similar programs that provide financial support for the electrification of transportation and buildings in the school district (“Grants”).
- Commit that any new purchases of school buses and other vehicles used by BCPS will be electric.
- Apply for Grants to replace fossil-fuel-powered school buses and other fossil-fuel powered vehicles owned or leased by BCPS (“Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles” or “ICE Vehicles”) with electric school buses and electric vehicles, respectively (“Electric Vehicles”).
- In the case of any ICE Vehicles that are not replaced with funds received from Grants, BCPS hereby commits to replacing such ICE Vehicles with Electric Vehicles at the time of replacement.
- Commit that in any new construction or major remodel of a BCPS building, only electric appliances will be installed.

- Create a Building Electrification Readiness Plan that addresses all aspects of preparation necessary to replace fossil-fuel-powered appliances used by BCPS schools (“Gas Appliances”) with all-electric appliances (“Electric Appliances”), including electrical service and panel capacity, wiring and duct requirements, prospective equipment locations, and structural requirements such as footings.
- Commit that any new purchases of appliances used by BCPS will be Electric Appliances.
- Apply for Grants to replace Gas Appliances with Electric Appliances, including the replacement of fossil-fuel-powered water heaters and furnaces with electric heat-pump water heaters and furnaces, and replacing natural-gas or propane-gas cooking equipment with all-electric equipment, including induction stoves and Cooktops.
- In the case of any Gas Appliances that are not replaced with funds received from Grants, BCPS hereby commits to replacing such Gas Appliances with Electric Appliances at the time of burn-out or replacement.
- Commit to replace all incandescent, fluorescent, and halogen light bulbs with LED Bulbs.
- Commit that any fossil-fuel-powered generator used by BCPS will be replaced no later than 2027 with a battery-powered alternative for backup power.
- Replace any fossil-fuel-powered landscape maintenance equipment, including leaf blowers and trimmers, with battery-powered or plug-in electric alternatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that BCPS will take bold steps to (1) sign up for a renewable electricity plan with a renewable energy provider (2) create a renewable electricity plan, (3) install solar panels on buildings and/or parking structures.

The foregoing resolution is hereby approved and adopted by the Baltimore County Board of Education at its regular public meeting on this _____.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

