



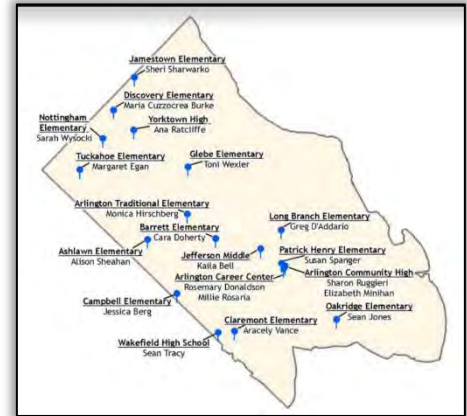
Arlington Public Schools – 2018-19 Sustainability Inventory Results

Background

Arlington Public Schools (APS) has supported the Sustainability Liaison Program since 2016. Sustainability Liaisons are selected annually through a competitive process. They receive a modest stipend in exchange for their year-long effort to build a culture of sustainability through school-based curriculum, operational, transportation, and communication projects. The program began in the fall of 2016 and in 2019, APS supported 20 Sustainability Liaisons in 18 of 33 schools.

In the 2018-19 school year, Sustainability Liaisons were required to complete three primary projects: inventory the sustainability practices in their school, conduct a waste assessment, and implement at least one waste-related project.

In addition, most Sustainability Liaisons completed several additional sustainability-related projects.



Sustainability Inventory

At the beginning and the end of each school year, Sustainability Liaisons document sustainability practices in their school related to water/stormwater, schoolyard habitats, sustainable food, energy, toxics, transportation, and consumption and waste. The approach and questions are similar to that used by the Montgomery County Public Schools School Energy and Recycling Team checklist, which is based on the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School program guidance.

In 2018-2019, 17 schools completed a Sustainability Inventory. The results provide a good snapshot of sustainability efforts at the schools. The full results can be found on the following pages, but here are some highlights.

Assessment Highlights

- 65% of the schools have student environmental clubs
- 94% of the schools say that at least some water faucets have been retrofitted with bottle fillers
- 71% of the schools have a rain barrel or rain garden
- 88% of the schools have outdoor learning areas
- 71% of the schools encourage energy conservation by the school community to turn off lights, computers, and printers when not in use
- 62% of the schools participate in Arlington Transportation Partners Champions program
- 80% of the schools have incorporated reducing waste and recycling more into the curriculum.





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By connecting APS's physical spaces and best practices to curriculum, APS has a solid foundation through which it can inspire students and their families to support sustainability in their schools and throughout the community.

Opportunities

The Sustainability Inventory suggests several opportunities for enhancing sustainability in APS, including:

- Conducting energy and water audits to identify ways to reduce energy and water consumption;
- Improving collaboration between custodial, administrative, and faculty staff to support a sustainability culture;
- Reducing waste and increasing recycling and composting; and
- Engaging Parent Teacher Associations to support sustainable practices in school events.

The Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Sustainability will examine these opportunities and make future recommendations to improve sustainability in APS.

For more detailed information on the 2018-2019 Sustainability Inventory and the other outstanding accomplishments of APS Sustainability Liaisons, visit the [APS Sustainability Liaison website](#).

School Sustainability Inventory Statistics for 2018-19

Below is a summary of all of the data collected through the 17 Sustainability Inventories.

General

27% of schools have a PTA committee focused on sustainability-related activities.

65% of schools have student environmental clubs.

Water and Stormwater

14% of schools have conducted a water use audit.

67% of schools have tested their toilets for leaks and have reported any leaks to facilities.

47% of schools have low-flow faucet aerators.

60% of schools say that the school encourages water conservation.

38% of schools say that their school has been educated about not using bottled water.

94% of schools say that at least some water faucets have been retrofitted with bottle fillers.

71% of schools say that the school has a rain barrel or rain garden.

69% of schools say that there is water / stormwater education in the curriculum.



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Schoolyard Habitat

88% of schools have gardens that attract wildlife (i.e. pollinator garden or native plant garden).

47% have an outdoor water source such as a bird bath or pond to provide animals with fresh water.

88% have outdoor learning areas.

13% say the school has outdoor learning on a specific day of the week (ie Wilderness Wednesdays) and/or one "green" hour every day.

41% have a compost bin for grass, weeds, and leaves.

44% have a certified schoolyard (National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat Program or Audubon at Home Program).

75% have incorporated wildlife habitats into the curriculum.

56% have notable schoolyard habitat activities in their schools.

Sustainable Food

65% have planted vegetables and herbs.

31% incorporate local produced produce from the school garden or local farms into the lunch menu or snack time.

13% participate in Lawns 2 Lettuce 4 Lunch.

57% offer healthy food options at evening events.

50% provide room parents with guidelines for healthy school parties (active games, nutritious food and drink, healthy portion sizes).

31% have an after-school club or enrichment program for students to learn about healthy cooking.

47% incorporate sustainable food into the curriculum.

56% have notable sustainable food activities in their schools.

Energy

17% of schools have had an energy audit.

71% of schools encourage energy conservation by the school community to turn off lights, computers, and printers when not in use.

64% of schools shut down computer equipment before long weekends and school breaks.

88% of schools close windows and outdoor doors during heating and cooling season.



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79% of schools seal windows and doors to avoid drafts.

22% of schools noted that there are incandescent light bulbs in desk lamps or other places that can be easily replaced with LEDs* (* 8 schools did not know the answer to this question—an unusually high number for our sample of schools, and the highest across all questions).

81% of schools incorporate energy conservation into the curriculum.

29% of schools say that there are other notable energy activities in their schools.

Healthy Schools / Toxics

29% of schools participate in an electronics waste collection event (in coordination with Arlington County staff).

36% of schools have conducted a chemical product inventory of cleaning products.

41% of schools prohibit use of anti-bacterial hand soap.

Transportation

67% of schools have conducted a transportation audit.

62% of schools participate in Arlington Transportation Partners Champions Program.

69% of schools provide incentives for students and staff to not use personal automobiles to get to school.

33% of schools encourage car drivers not to idle during pick up and drop off.

24% of schools have a bicycle repair kit available for staff and students.

19% of schools have walking school bus(es) to encourage walking to school.

50% of schools have incorporated sustainable transportation into the curriculum.

50% of schools say that there are other notable transportation activities in their school.

Consumption and Waste

80% say that their school has conducted a waste audit.

94% say that their schools encourage reducing waste and recycling more.

81% of schools co-locate their recycling and trash cans.

87% of schools say that their recycling and trash cans have appropriate and sufficient signage.

55% of schools hold waste free lunch event(s) emphasizing reducing/reusing in addition to recycling.



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44% of schools have a place for students to put unused food/milk and donate to AFAC.

80% of schools have incorporated reducing waste and recycling more into the curriculum.

50% of schools say that there are other notable consumption and waste activities in their schools.

Other

63% of schools say that there are other notable sustainability related activities in their schools.