Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Policy 8542: Environmental Stewardship

School Board Work Session
February 10, 2026

Policy 8542: Environmental Stewardship

Agenda

- Background
- Philosophy
- Waste Management
- Capital Projects: Green Globes Certification
- Cost and Schedule Impacts to Willow Springs ES Renovation
- Costs Incurred on Dunn Loring ES New Construction
- Summary
- Conclusion

Background

- Adoption (8542): November 6, 2008
- Reviewed and Corrected (8542.1): September 26, 2013

Philosophy

The Fairfax County School Board is dedicated to cultivating a sustainable future by minimizing our environmental footprint. The School Board commits to reducing energy and water consumption, lowering emissions, and fostering responsible resource management. This work is driven by the adopted recommendations of the Joint Environmental Task (JET) which concluded in 2021.

Waste Management
Current Status of Contracts

- Division-wide waste, recycling, and organics* hauling contract remains under procurement (via Request For Proposal {RFP})
  - New contract expected to be awarded by April 1, 2026 (a joint contract between FCPS and Fairfax County Gov't)
  - Final service models, sorting requirements, and pricing cannot be finalized until a vendor is selected

- The electronics waste (or e-waste) recycling contract (managed by FCPS warehouse operations) is a shared contract with Fairfax County Gov't
  - The current e-waste contract expires Spring 2026; an extension is being requested for an additional year
  - FCPS and Fairfax County Gov't will collaborate on the new RFP
  - The new RFP will place heavy focus on JET goals and vendor take-back*

*JET recommendation

Waste Management
Other Zero Waste Initiatives Under Consideration

Cost-neutral

- Increase recycling requirements during construction
- Increase recycling at all schools/facilities through the support of Get2Green Leaders*

Savings potentials

- Eliminate the purchase of single-use plastics (ex.plastic water bottles)*
- Centralize trash/recycling cans in schools/offices
- Double-sided printing set as default, division-wide
- Ensure food share tables are in practice
- Bulk procurement

Start-up costs

- Transition to reusable food services in cafeterias
- Sustainable procurement practices*
- Composting*

Potential revenue generation to offset other costs

- Partner with Trex decking in Winchester
- Contract with Thrift Books to sell discarded text and library books

*JET recommendation

Waste Management
Comparison of Impact vs. Effort

Initiative	Implementation Effort	Waste Reduction Impact
Elimination of plastic water bottles	Low	High
Double-sided printing	Low	Medium
Share tables	Low	Medium
Centralized waste stations	Medium	High
Bulk milk dispensers	Medium	High
Reusable food services	High	Very High
Composting	Medium	Very High

Waste Management Strategic Path Forward

Continued collaboration with Fairfax County gov't zero waste team:

- Aligns practices between both organizations
- Centers strategies around JET goals
- Positions FCPS well for more sustainable and fiscally responsible contract(s)

New contracts will:

- Center around JET goals
- Reduce overall waste being sent to landfills
- Recycle more materials

Recommended long-term approach:

- Establish a cross-departmental sustainability work group
- Anchor zero-waste strategies in procurement decisions, prioritizing sustainable options where cost-effective
- Align approach with OFM leadership before broader rollout

Alignment with Net Zero Goals

- The transition to Green Globes not only meets legislative requirements but also reinforces our commitment to the JET Net Zero Energy initiative.
- Green Globes' criteria are deeply focused on energy use and efficiency, directly supporting the goal of building and renovating schools to be as energy-neutral as possible.
- By adopting Green Globes, FCPS ensures that all future projects will contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future for the county.

Capital Projects Portfolio Cost Impacts: NZE Ready

Project Estimates Trend		Incorporation of NZE Ready		Green Globes	
Project	**CIP Estimate**				**Cost Savings FY26 to FY27**
	FY 2024-28	**FY 2025-29**	**FY 2026-30**	**Proposed FY 2027-31**	
Willow Springs ES Renovation	$56.9M	$78.7M	$79.5M	$75.3M	$4.2M
Cub Run ES Renovation	$61.4M	$82.6M	$99.6M	$88.5M	$11.1M
Union Mill ES Renovation	$57.7M	$84.1M	$79.1M	$68.4M	$10.7M
Centre Ridge ES Renovation	$55.8M	$84.0M	$78.9M	$73.8M	$5.1M
Poplar Tree ES Renovation	$57.1M	$86.8M	$77.9M	$72.6M	$5.3M
Waples Mill ES Renovation	$56.1M	$87.5M	$82.6M	$77.3M	$5.3M
Sangster ES Renovation	$55.0M	$91.6M	$83.8M	$78.7M	$5.1M
Saratoga ES Renovation	$58.9M	$93.0M	$82.1M	$73.0M	$9.1M
Virginia Run ES Renovation	$56.0M	$94.9M	$86.5M	$81.0M	$5.5M
Franklin MS Renovation	$90.0M	$129.0M	$123.3M	$112.6M	$10.7M
Twain MS Renovation	$90.0M	$152.3M	$132.7M	$120.7M	$12.0M
Centreville HS Renovation	$170.0M	$290.7M	$295.6M	$324.9M	($29.3M)
Dunn Loring ES New Construction	$54.0M	$84.4M	$85.7M	$85.1M	$0.6M
Silver Line ES New Construction	$60.0M	$97.1M	$100.6M	$80.5M	$20.1M
				Total	**$75.5M**

Capital Projects Portfolio Schedule Impacts*: NZE Ready

Project Completion	Incorporation of NZE Ready		Green Globes	
Project	**CIP Project Completion (FY)**			
	FY 2024-28	**FY 2025-29**	**FY 2026-30**	**Proposed FY 2027-31**	**Change from FY26 to FY27**
Willow Springs ES Renovation	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2029	-
Cub Run ES Renovation	FY 2028	FY 2030	FY 2030	FY 2030	-
Union Mill ES Renovation	FY 2028	FY 2031	FY 2031	FY 2031	-
Centre Ridge ES Renovation	FY 2028	FY 2031	FY 2031	FY 2033	2 years
Poplar Tree ES Renovation	FY 2028	FY 2032	FY 2031	FY 2033	2 years
Waples Mill ES Renovation	FY 2030	FY 2032	FY 2032	FY 2034	2 years
Sangster ES Renovation	FY 2030	FY 2033	FY 2032	FY 2034	2 years
Saratoga ES Renovation	FY 2030	FY 2034	FY 2033	FY 2034	1 year
Virginia Run ES Renovation	FY 2030	FY 2034	FY 2033	FY 2035	2 years
Franklin MS Renovation	FY 2030	FY 2032	FY 2031	FY 2032	1 year
Twain MS Renovation	FY 2032	FY 2035	FY 2033	FY 2034	1 year
Centreville HS Renovation	FY 2030	FY 2029	FY 2029	FY 2032	3 years
Dunn Loring ES New Construction	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY2028	-1 year
Silver Line ES New Construction	FY 2029	FY 2033	FY 2034	FY 2031	-3 years

Capital Projects: Green Globes Certification

- Based on legislative update to Virginia's High-Performance Buildings Act (HB2001), Public buildings must be designed, constructed, verified and operated to comply with a high performance building certification.
- FCPS Facilities Services and Capital Programs staff evaluated recognized building certification options and chose Green Globes.
- Green Globes is a science-based building rating system that assesses a project's environmental impact across multiple areas, including energy, water, materials, and indoor air quality.
- Green Globes provides a flexible approach that allows project teams to collaborate with the Green Building Initiative (GBI) to prioritize key sustainability aspects.
- The move to Green Globes certification is a proactive step that positions FCPS to meet both state legislative mandates and its own sustainability goals. This new approach will allow us to create healthier, more efficient, and more resilient school buildings for our community.

Willow Springs ES Renovation

- March 2022: Award of original A/E contract - $2.125M

This project was approved for update to NZE Ready in the FY 2025-29 CIP

- A/E Additional Service fees incurred due to NZE Ready design:
  - Amendment #1 (NZE Ready redesign) - $289.7K
  - Geothermal test well and conductivity testing - $66.4K

Proposed Fees for Removal of NZE Ready design

- Proposed A/E fee (Jan 2026) - $129.9K

Dunn Loring ES New Construction

- May 2022: Original A/E contract - $2.75M

This project was approved for update to NZE Ready in the FY 2025-29 CIP

- A/E Additional Service fees incurred due to NZE Ready design:
  - Amendment #3 (NZE Ready redesign) - $317.4K
  - Geothermal test well and conductivity testing - $64.9K

Current status: Permitting with NZE Ready design

Centreville HS Renovation

- Mar 2022: Original A/E contract - $8.0M

This project was approved for update to NZE Ready in the FY 2025-29 CIP

- A/E Additional Service fees incurred due to NZE Ready design:
  - NZE Ready redesign - $921.7K

Current status: Permitting with NZE Ready design



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