



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

West Nottingham Academy



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Independent School
Member since March 2021

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

At West Nottingham, we continually and in every facet of our daily lives, consider our impact on the earth that sustains us. We work to reduce our impact through consuming less and reusing whatever we can before we turn to recycling or creating waste. Our actions are based on understanding how our behaviors impact our world and transitioning our behaviors to put us in a healthy and reciprocal relationship with Earth.

To learn more, visit: <https://wna.org/sustainability/>

Environmental Team

West Nottingham Academy's sustainability efforts are led by a Director of Sustainability Programs and Curriculum (who is either the Head of School, Dean of Students, or another qualified assigned faculty member). The Director is assisted by the Mike Cairns Environmental Sustainability Fellow, a recent college graduate who is beginning a career in environmental sustainability and/or education. The Director and Fellow lead the Student Environmental Council (SEC). The Student Environmental Council (SEC) meets daily in the Fall and Spring and is led through the year by a volunteer leadership council of students. The group organizes and leads projects with the local community pertaining to the built campus, curriculum at the school, and on advocacy.

Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects

West Nottingham Academy recently received a grant to plant approximately 6,000 diverse native tree seedlings on over twenty-two acres of the Academy's 100-acre campus. The reforestation of the campus will help reduce sediment and nutrient pollution, leading to the improved health of the waters of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The tree planting will also increase habitat for local animals, such as songbirds, native insects, deer, and small mammals. By providing habitat, WNA will be increasing the biodiversity of its campus, and decreasing its negative impact on local ecosystems, all while making the campus a living laboratory for students. As the trees mature, they will become a carbon sink and make a significant contribution to reducing WNA's carbon footprint and contribute to climate change mitigation.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

West Nottingham Academy purchases milk in glass bottles from Kilby Farm and returns the glass bottles for reuse.

Recycling

The school utilizes single-stream recycling and collect cardboard, paper, plastic, aluminum and glass containers. In addition, we have special programs to collect the following:

- *Clothing*
- *CDs/DVDs*
- *Packing/shipping materials*
- *Shredded paper*
- *Oral care*
- *Shaving products*
- *Dead pens/markers*
- *Light bulbs*
- *Batteries*

Composting

West Nottingham Academy diverts all of its dining hall food waste to our partner farm, Kilby Farm. Each week, members of our community deliver our compost to the farm where they allow us to tip our waste there for free for use in Kilby Farm's methane digester and compost piles. This practice has enabled us to get rid of two trash dumpsters, and we have diverted over six tons of waste from

landfills to create clean energy/compost. Our school has also saved approximately \$12,000 annually.

WNA measured its tonnage of food waste as follows: All food waste is placed in 7-gallon buckets. For a series of four weeks at the end of a full week of dining hall use, buckets were weighed, and weights recorded. The average weight of the buckets was multiplied by the total number of weeks of school that food waste diversion took place to reach the total tonnage of just over 6 tons of food waste diverted.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

An energy audit is being conducted to gain a detailed understanding of WNA's energy infrastructure and usage. In doing so, we aim to uncover inefficiencies within our account structure, building systems, and lighting infrastructure. Upon completion of this project, WNA will reduce its energy consumption and emission (or responsibility for the emission of) greenhouse gases. In turn, this will lead to cost savings.

Renewable Energy

West Nottingham Academy has a solar power purchase agreement (PPA) with Solar City. The array generates from 1 - 1.5 GWh per year, exceeding the total campus energy usage. This excess generation creates a financial benefit in the ballpark of \$40,000.

Water

Stormwater Management

West Nottingham Academy received a grant funded by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund. These organizations, in partnership with the Maryland Forestry Foundation and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, planted over twenty-two acres of WNA's 100-acre campus with native trees. The project planted over 6,000 native trees, composing over 13 different species, including maple, river birch, black cherry, sycamore, and a variety of oaks. The reforestation of the campus will mitigate stormwater runoff, fortify campus stream banks, and will serve as habitat for local animals. Songbirds, insects, deer, and small mammals will thrive in this newly created habitat. By planting these trees, WNA will be increasing the biodiversity of its campus, and decreasing its impact on local ecosystems.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



WNA is a Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Certified Sustainable School. The certification shows that our community has made a commitment to and is carrying out a plan to reduce environmental impact as a school.

West Nottingham Academy's Student Environmental Council has testified about the efficacy of food waste diversion for the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate. WNA students have also testified for the Maryland House and Senate in support of an environmental justice constitutional amendment that would provide equity in ensuring environmental health across all Maryland communities.

West Nottingham Academy is also a member of the International Schools Association (ISA). West Nottingham has been awarded the opportunity to host the Youth Leadership Encounter on Global Climate Justice. The Encounter will take place in two stages. In fall of 2021, students from around the world will gather virtually to discuss and develop projects for their schools. They will then have the year to complete projects. In fall 2022, students from around the world will gather at WNA for a week-long conference on climate justice and present the projects from their individual schools.



[View our video](#)

Profile Updated April 2021



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

