Environmental Management System
An EMS is a set of processes and practices that enable an organization to reduce its adverse environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency. It is a systematic approach for our school system to bring environmental considerations into day-to-day decision-making and operations. Implementing an EMS also establishes a framework for tracking, evaluating and communicating environmental performance.

The establishment of an Environmental Management Policy is the cornerstone of an EMS. Albemarle County Public Schools has adopted an Environmental Management Policy that embodies our commitment to compliance, pollution prevention, and continual environmental improvement.

Standard Operating Procedures
Developed as part of the Environmental Management System, the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been approved by the EMS Steering Committee and are official for Albemarle County Public School use:

- Recycling & Universal Waste
  - Fluorescent Lightbulb Recycling SOP
  - Rechargeable Battery Recycling SOP
  - Refrigerant Management SOP
  - PCB Ballast SOP
- Asbestos Management
  - Asbestos Management SOP
- Safety
  - Confined Space SOP
  - Crane Safety SOP
  - Animals in the Classroom SOP
- Chemical Management
  - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) SOP
  - Safer Chemical Management SOP
- Other
  - Well Water Sampling and Maintenance SOP

Commingled Recycling
Posters in all the schools on “What goes in the bin?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Cans</td>
<td>Food and Liquid Waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin Cans</td>
<td>Plastic Bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel Cans</td>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonebooks</td>
<td>Plastic Food Trays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Bottles (#1 &amp; #2 only)</td>
<td>Plastic Tubes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass Containers &amp; Bottles</td>
<td>Milk Cartons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Paper</td>
<td>Plastic Bottle Caps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Paper</td>
<td>Food Contaminated Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Plastic Liners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although recycling is a key component of being sustainable, it’s important to remember to reduce your waste by reusing materials or buying less! A few tips on how to Reduce and Reuse before you Recycle:*

- **Simplify:** Only keep belongings that you use/enjoy on a regular basis. By making the effort to reduce what you own, you will naturally purchase less/create less waste in the future.
- **Shopping Bags:** While shopping, if you only buy a few products skip the shopping bag. For larger purchases, bring your own reusable ones.
- **Mug-to-Go:** Carry a mug with you wherever you go for take-out beverages.
- **Avoid Creating Trash:** When ordering food, avoid receiving any unnecessary plastic utensils, straws, etc. Buy ice cream in a cone instead of a cup, don’t accept “free” promotional products, buy products with the least amount of packaging, etc.

*adapted from www.globalstewards.org
Green Building

Albemarle High School is currently undergoing the LEED for Schools Certification process for their new addition.

In December 2010, Brownsville Elementary earned the LEED GOLD certification.

Henley Middle School is currently registered for the LEED for Existing Buildings – Operations & Management Certification process.

*LEED Certification Categories:
- Sustainable Sites
- Water Efficiency
- Energy and Atmosphere
- Materials and Resources
- Indoor Environmental Quality
- Innovation in Operations
- Regional Priority Credits
*According to the LEED 2009 for Existing Buildings – Operations & Management Project Checklist

Air & Roof Monitoring Stations

As a part of their LEED project, Albemarle High School now has an expansive green roof complete with monitoring station.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) installed an ambient air monitoring station at Albemarle High School in early 2008. The station measures particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or smaller in size (PM2.5) and ozone.

Energy and Renewables

Albemarle County Public School Division became an ENERGY STAR partner in April 2009.

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ENERGY STAR Ratings

Successful Efficiency Measures:
- Increased communication with schools about energy and water usage
- Formation of an energy team with representation from many departments and schools
- Lighting upgrades with motion sensors
- Energy audits
- Implementation of the Energy Management and Conservation Policy
- Modifying setpoints through the Building Automation System
- Purchasing ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment and appliances
- Gaining remote control of learning cottages

Future Project at Henley Middle School to include:
- Solar Panels
- Wind Turbine
- Solar Thermal
- Renewable Energy Resource Center

Feature Schools

Gardens & Greenhouses

Henley Middle School’s Environmental Club at work in the garden (above).

Greenhouse at Stony Point Elementary (above). Rain-water collection cisterns outside Yancey Elementary’s greenhouse (right).

Staying Sustainable in the Kitchen!

Eat Fresh, Eat Local!

In November 2010, 8 schools participated in Farm to School Week – an effort to promote health and sustainability. Food from the Local Food Hub was served in the cafeteria during Virginia’s Farm to School Week. The week also included educational components regarding agriculture, farmers, and the benefits of eating local foods. Participating farms included the Local Food Hub, Carter Mountain Orchard, and the Farm at Red Hill.

Farm to School week is an annual event, and we hope to see even greater participation in the coming years!

Composting

Urban Compost Tumblers® have been installed at Brownsville Elementary, Crozet Elementary, Western Albemarle High School, Red Hill Elementary, and Monticello High School.

What Can I Compost at School?

Yes

No

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!