



CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

YEAR-END COMMITTEE REPORT | JULY 2023



Prince George's County Board of Education

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Summary

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has placed a priority on working to meet UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emission reduction targets by 2030 or 2040, depending on the target. On March 1, 2021, the Prince George's County Board of Education established the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) Focus Work Group to develop a plan for creating and meeting climate action goals.

PGCPS has developed 58 Climate Change Action Plan items. In an effort to successfully implement these measures, the Chief Executive Officer created a Climate Change Action Plan Operational Committee, composed of 38 PGCPS staff members who meet monthly to review each action item, share progress for each priority and discuss plans to continue moving the work forward as we meet all timeline requirements.

A biannual report will be published in January and July to keep all stakeholders informed of our progress and ways they can support our continued work to reduce our carbon footprint.

Introduction

This report focuses on how a changing climate is affecting K-12 education and actions needed to move toward a carbon neutral future. PGCPS believes taking urgent action to combat climate change is critical to the future of our students and our community. The CCAP empowers our students, staff and administration to work as partners with our county and state to bring about transformational changes and help create a future where we all share the benefits of healthy air, clean water, job opportunities and safe places to live, work and play.

Taking action is the heart of the CCAP and our district. Below, we discuss specific impacts that climate change will have on education and our community along with proposed actions that are designed to help combat these changes. These actions are intended as only the beginning to our school system's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient future. PGCPS will continue to study and make changes to our plan as needed due to changing conditions and priorities.

Recommendation #1: Support Environmental Justice Through Climate, Curriculum, Training and Partnerships

PGCPS has worked to incorporate environmental issues into the curriculum while expanding opportunities for student-driven engagement outside of the classroom, including forums and priority group meetings. Social media, video and newsletters were leveraged to highlight student efforts across the school system through the #PGCPSGreen campaign.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Create Climate Curriculum and Environmental Justice Work Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to conduct Summer Professional Learning Experience for educators (July 24-28). The course will cover how schools can lead efforts to save the bay and address climate change. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in the Climate Curriculum and Environmental Justice Work Group. Featured EcoArt Contest winners in the PGCPS Regional Student Art Shows. Highlighted SEAS in <i>PGCPS NewsBreak</i> episode, Keeping an Eye on the Environment.
2	Launch Annual Climate-Ready Leadership Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 300 youth attended the Student Environmental Alliance Summit (SEAS, April 12 and April 18). Submitted budget proposal for 2024 SEAS and Leadership Summit.
3	Enhance Access to Climate Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work with EnergyCAP to collect and disseminate data on building energy performance; student teams will have access to information to assist with school-based climate action decisions. Plans underway to install solar dashboards at Greenbelt Middle School and Oxon Hill High School. The solar dashboards and energy performance dashboards at Glenarden Woods Elementary and Fairmont Heights High School will be available for student Green Team use in fall 2023. Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources CTE program at Fairmont Heights High School will provide opportunities to engage with school climate data.

4	Enhance CTE Program to Further Incorporate “Green” Skills and Job Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed program expansions: Implement Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources CTE program at International High School at Largo and Bowie, Northwestern and Potomac high schools. Recommend acquiring up to three electric vehicles for CTE Department to help reduce carbon footprint when delivering resources to teachers.
5	Build New Climate Partnerships with Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS) and Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting with school administrators on specific needs. Planning special outreach campaigns to businesses and nonprofits focused around commemorative days.
6	Incorporate Climate and Environmental Justice Curriculum into Learning Standards and Benchmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalizing plans for curriculum audit and gap analysis. Working with the Schmidt Center to identify climate change educational resources for school districts and states.

Recommendation #2: Reduce Carbon Footprint from PGCPS Buildings

In an effort to reduce its carbon footprint, PGCPS now requires all private partners responding to the next Blueprint Schools (ACF/P3) request for proposals to participate in rebates and related programs. Through a Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Decarbonization Grant, the school system can benchmark and track energy use in all schools and facilities. Future plans include applying for EmPower Maryland Rebate Incentives for lighting, HVAC and kitchen equipment in all new Blueprint Schools.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Require Private Partners to Participate in All Rebates and Other Appropriate Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized the rebate clause for insertion in construction and building services, including alternative construction financing, request for proposals (RFP). Submitted EmPower Maryland Rebate Incentive applications for all qualifying equipment (HVAC, boilers, kitchen supplies and lighting) in six new Blueprint Schools.
2	Collect and Disseminate Data on Building Energy Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Decarbonizing Public Schools Program (Pilot) Grant. Contracted with EnergyCAP/Bith Group to fulfill MEA grant requirements related to energy data. Providing regular updates to MEA.
3	Build Staff Capacity in Building Maintenance and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalizing the job description and reporting structure for a new position with the goal of selecting the candidate prior to August 1, 2023.
4	Consolidate PGCPS Administration/Central Office Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Swing” office space will be available June 2023 for a few offices that will be displaced this summer due to construction. Software will be purchased for staff to utilize to sign up for use of the space when they are not teleworking. IT will set up 25 workstations with standardized hardware for staff to use. We will review and make adjustments during the summer before providing this offering to other offices. Our goal for creating the swing office space is to eventually reduce the number of central office sites in use that require major renovation towards decreasing our carbon footprint. One department participated in the Telework Pilot for the 2022-2023 school year. The

		<p>year-end summary report reveals that the employees believe they have increased team camaraderie and improved task focus, punctuality and availability. Areas that require improvement: making sure that staff members are “okay” and tracking “soft” tasks, such as learning new software.</p>
1	<p>Perform Comprehensive Energy Audit All Existing Buildings and Rely on Data for EFMP Cycles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulted with Energy Systems Group (ESG) on best practices for completing a comprehensive audit of all existing PGCPs buildings. ESG highly recommended that PGCPs approach a comprehensive audit in small segments rather than one large project. • EssexCo presented a proposal to audit three PGCPs facilities.
2	<p>Move Toward Fossil-Fuel Free/Net-Zero Ready for All New Construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched and reviewed alternatives, including solar panel installation, blue roofs, enhanced building envelope and evaluation for use of geothermal HVAC systems. • The Department of Capital Programs met with Surya Standard on March 22, 2023 to get an overview of a school built in India that utilizes microgrids with solar panels and back up battery systems. • Utilized professional development opportunities on building design, construction that utilizes microgrids with solar panels and backup battery systems, and the Maryland Climate Solutions Act (establishing a net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions goal by 2045).
3	<p>Research and Potentially Implement Wastewater Thermal Energy Technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching the feasibility of wastewater thermal energy in new construction buildings, particularly larger buildings, such as the new High Point High School and/or new Northern Area High School (Adelphi).
4	<p>Phase out Fossil Fuel Powered Steam and Water Heating Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing elimination of steam heating systems in the course of replacing systems in existing buildings. • Researching new facility design to reduce the heating/cooling load requirements, such as utilizing Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) for exterior building walls, which lowers HVAC load requirements by at least 30%. Lowering the load requirements proportionally affects

		the amount of electrical demand and sizing of the power supply.
5	Phase Out R-22 HVAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifying low GWP refrigerants for new equipment due to the impending 2025 phaseout of R134A and R410A also. • Replacement chiller for Benjamin Foulois has been ordered and will utilize a lower GWP refrigerant R513A. R513A has an Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) rating of 0. • Most scopes of work currently being written and new equipment being ordered will specify the use of lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) rated refrigerants.
1	Design All New PGCPs Buildings to be Resiliency Hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expediting renovations at the new Mullikin Bus Lot project, which will provide renewable power sources for charging up to 90 electric school buses. • Researching the feasibility of fast-charging sites at select school locations while buses are waiting for students between routes. Although buses do not wait for an extended period of time between routes at many locations, there are a number of locations with longer wait times. Providing rapid charging for a shorter period of time might enable the vehicles to travel for longer periods of time between overnight charges. • Designing new school projects to be solar-ready at a minimum. Future projects are being evaluated during the design phase to assess potential locations for solar panels, blue roofs, etc. Additional communication is currently underway with the Maryland Department of Energy to coordinate grant applications for the installation of panels at these locations.

Recommendation #3: Commit to Renewable Energy Sources for a Net-Zero Emissions Future

To lay the groundwork for a net-zero emissions future, PGCPS began to explore strategies by partnering with other K-12 districts, researching energy wholesale markets, touring NetZero schools and taking part in webinars and training. Three new schools currently under construction will include rooftop solar panels. In addition, a battery-operated landscaping equipment pilot was started.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Begin Renewable Energy Purchasing Through Wholesale Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched energy purchasing and wholesale markets in preparation for procurement when the current PGCPS energy contract expires.
2	Create a Publicly Available Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created draft dashboard in April 2023 that both displays data and educates the viewer on different types of climate change mitigation projects at our facilities. Public version of the dashboard will be ready in August 2023 for review on the PGCPS website. Feedback will be collected in September 2023. Adjustments based on the feedback will be made in fall 2023.
1	Install Solar Panels on PGCPS Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Blueprint Schools will be delivered “solar ready” in late summer and fall 2023. Engaged in solar discussions with local companies and reviewed proposals. Roof assessments conducted at 14 schools. Discussions underway for rooftop solar requirements for new Suitland High School building.

2	Sign onto Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) for Off-site Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explored opportunities to expand current Power Purchase Agreements with Constellation/Luminance and Maryland Clean Energy Center as well as during the inaugural Clean Energy Schools Symposium (March 26-28, 2023).
1	Explore Approaches to Integrate Battery Backup Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Division of Supporting Services is currently working on completing a consulting agreement to install bus charging stations at the Mullikin Bus Lot. This work will be contracted in conjunction with the current project already in progress to provide a new office facility and grounds at this location. • The Department of Capital Programs met with Surya Standard on March 22, 2023 to get an overview of a school built in India that utilizes microgrids with solar panels and back up battery systems.

Recommendation #4: Commit to Low Carbon School Transportation

To learn more about the transition to electric school buses, PGCPs participated in the inaugural Clean Energy Schools Symposium and the Electric School Bus reception. Current renovations at the Mullikin Bus Lot include power sources for charging up to 90 electric school buses that will be used in a pilot fleet of 20 electric buses next school year. PGCPs is modifying bus routes to optimize fuel use and exploring alternative energy sources for adding micro-grid charging infrastructure, including solar, wind, battery storage and generators powered by renewable energy sources.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Modify Bus Route to Fuel Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilized scheduling and routing software (Transfinder, Routefinder Plus) to improve overall operational efficiency by reducing unnecessary mileage. Continuing to analyze and modify school bus routes to reduce fuel usage monthly.
1	Electrify All Buses by 2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing pilot program at the Mullikin Bus Lot consisting of new electric school buses with the required facility improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure during the 2023-2024 school year. As the district explores electrifying school transportation and plans for its future new fleet of electric school buses and electrified transportation facilities and electric vehicle charging infrastructure projects, it has an opportunity to incorporate electric micro-grids featuring solar, wind, battery storage and generators powered by CNG or propane as renewable energy sources. As the district continues planning its equitable transition to electric school buses, net zero decarbonized buildings and facilities, it has an opportunity to improve or expand upon its future schools and offices, transportation facilities and core transportation services. Electric school bus adaptation allows the district a unique opportunity to improve children's health and educational outcomes, improve driver health and satisfaction, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and create green jobs and workforce development opportunities.

2	Increase Walking/Biking/Public Transit Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work with the County Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety Committee in support of Vision Zero for pedestrian safety. Recommendations will continue to emphasize the need for sidewalks to/from bus stops. • Working directly with WMATA on the High Point High School Rideshare Program.
3	Eliminate Unnecessary Idling from School Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to enforce, educate and train the management team and bus drivers on idling and fuel conservation policies and procedures. • Training will be included in annual in-service training and monthly safety meetings and documented with eDoctrina.
4	Increase the Safety and Other Amenities Available on School Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working directly with vendors (Bus Patrol, Transfinder and Zonar) to provide the most updated student safety equipment, including internal and external cameras, tablets and GPS. • New electric school buses will be equipped with seatbelts.
5	Electrify All Light-Duty Vehicles and Other Equipment by 2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching and exploring EV vehicle manufacturers and the various types of EV vehicles to be considered for use throughout the school system. • Continuing discussions with electric utility providers for planning support facility EV charging system infrastructure projects. • Continuing discussions with various EV charging hardware manufacturers and providers regarding microgrid feasibility to include vehicle to grid/to building, battery storage; wind and solar options.

Recommendation #5: Reduce Food Waste and Grow Climate-Friendly Food

PGCPS is leading the way in composting food waste in schools through a pilot program with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. Additional schools were added to the program this year, with 17 total schools providing compost to the county's organics composting facility. Waste audits helped quantify and categorize school meal waste, and compostable paper products and utensils were identified for use during the upcoming school year. A new administrative procedure was introduced to reduce food waste through the use of Share Tables, Offer vs. Serve and food donations to local food pantries, and the Department of Food and Nutrition Services will expand efforts to offer locally grown and school grown produce.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Incorporate Student, Parent, Staff and Community Stakeholder Input into PGCPS Menus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated student survey results and recommendations in developing 2023-24 school menus. Working to expand offerings of vegan plant-based entrees.
2	Conduct Baseline Assessments for Food Waste and Values-Driven Purchasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted <u>School Waste Audits</u> at elementary, middle and high schools to quantify and categorize school meal waste. At each school, the majority of the waste by weight was compostable materials (food scraps and compostable paper trays). Food scraps accounted for the majority of the waste by weight from school kitchens.
1	Implement Values-Driven, Climate-Friendly Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented comprehensive approach to source and include products, sauces and seasonings made from pea protein, soy, legumes and other vegetables.
2	Reduce Food Waste and Increase Composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 composting pilot locations for the 2022-23 school year. Composting Data shows that over 165,000 lbs. of materials were collected for composting and diverted from the landfill. Working with the County Department of the Environment to expand the number of composting schools for 2023-24 academic year.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Procedure: Reduce Food Waste In Schools was created and submitted for approval to provide guidance on Share Tables, Offer vs Serve, and food donation to a local food pantry.
1	Continue to Participate in Maryland's Farm to School Program and Expand Sourcing and Promotion of Locally Produced Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procurement contract specifies the requirement for the distributor to source locally-grown produce. • Maryland local farms providing seasonal produce includes: Baugher Apple Orchard, Westminster; Miller Farm, Clinton; and Bartenfelder Farm, Nottingham.
2	Create Resilient Food Production on PGPCS Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing collaboration with Gwynn Park High School to develop plan for growing herbs to be used in the school lunch program as well as produce seedlings to support planting herbs in other schools. • Collaboration with Maryland SNAP-ED program to provide nutrition education, school gardens and encourage students to grow and try a variety of foods.

Recommendation #6: Commit to Sustainable Materials Management and Procurement

To ensure that sustainable materials are used throughout PGCPs, a new sustainable purchasing policy was developed. A heightened focus on waste reduction, recycling and composting was implemented that includes new waste management lessons for fourth-graders and professional development for their teachers. Activities around America Recycles Day included teacher toolkits with ideas to promote recycling and reducing waste, and a video challenge had students sharing ideas online. School recycling data is being tracked, and schools that participated in the county's pilot composting program diverted 165,000 pounds of materials from the landfill.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Develop a Sustainable Purchasing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to finalize the Sustainable Purchasing Administrative Policy.
2	Reduce School Meal Packaging Sent to the Landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitioning to compostable packaging and utensils for next school year.
3	Promote Recycling and Waste Reduction in PGCPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced PGCPs Newsbreak - Trash Talk focusing on school composting and Bowie Green Team Meeting presentation on composting, recycling and other school environmental programs. Presented recycling and composting information at the Student Environmental Alliance Summit (April 18) Updated Administrative Procedure 2810: Recycling Program; submitted AP to General Counsel for review Implementing battery recycling program (small 9-volt or less) to schools then offices Continuing to promote all waste reduction programs on the Recycling webpages
1	Improve the Carbon Footprint of the Waste Collection System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combine all waste removal under one vendor to improve efficiency Add personnel in FY25 to monitor and improve waste reduction.

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Expand Tracking of Waste and Diversion Rates

- Tracking recycling data and [Recycling Dumpster Data](#) for all facilities. [Composting Data](#) shows that over 165,000 lbs. of materials were collected for composting and diverted from the landfill.
- Add more personnel in fiscal year 2025 to monitor and improve waste reduction.
- Fiscal year 2024 budget request provides funding for implementation of a pilot program to use dynamic routing for trash collection in one-third of the county. If successful, phase in the the remaining two-thirds over the next three fiscal years

Recommendation #7: Commit to Climate Resilient Land Management

PGCPS is working on strategies for climate-resilient land management that includes thoughtful design for new construction and landscaping, reforestation, moving away from fossil fuels, utilizing microgrids and conducting energy audits. All new buildings under construction during the 2022-23 school year were designed to be Resiliency Hubs, facilities that support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources and reduce carbon pollution.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Conduct a System-wide Landscape Inventory and Develop a Plan for Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Landscape Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to establish a broad framework for facility environmental data and develop dashboards that include green infrastructure and conservation landscapes. Developing the database that will be used to monitor progress in this area. Developing 50 Climate Change Action Plan management areas to promote natural reforestation.
2	Establish a System-wide Project Database with Tracking and Monitoring for All Green Infrastructure and Conservation Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined green infrastructure and identified the project types. Working to establish a broad framework for facility environmental data and develop dashboards that include green infrastructure and conservation landscapes. Prepared presentation on various methods available to display green infrastructure data.
3	Incorporate Stormwater Management Activities into School Curriculum to Enhance Climate Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing teacher professional development underway.
4	Streamline the Review Process for Green Infrastructure Projects and Separate the Review Process from the Current Site Permitting Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to meet this objective due to county and state mandates. Regulatory agencies having jurisdiction request additional measures after review of plans as well as concurrent studies (traffic, floodplain studies, etc.). The building footprint is not set in place until determined by review of plans that the program identified in the educational specifications have been met as well as requirements from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). As the size

		<p>of a building on a site directly correlates with the requirements for stormwater management and green infrastructure, these requirements must be evaluated on an individual project basis.</p>
1	Plant More Trees at Each School and Across the School System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing 50 Climate Change Action Plan management areas to promote natural reforestation. • Working to promote and support systemic student-based tree planting(s). • Developing an administrative procedure to discontinue the practice of removing live trees from PGcps property.
2	Plant Native Plants and Create Conservation Landscapes for Stormwater and Multiple Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting trees on new construction and staged renovation projects in accordance with the MNCPPC Forest Management plan. This work will involve coordination with the county on the permissible plants and/or landscapes at each site.
3	Increase the Number of School-Based Green Infrastructure Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing extensive green infrastructure items at Glenridge Area Middle School, William Wirt Middle School, as well as all six projects under the Blueprint Schools Phase 1 Package. Additional infrastructure items were also installed at the replacement building for Cherokee Lane Elementary School.
4	Transition Sports Field Surfaces to Natural Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified Largo and Surrattsville High Schools as suitable sites to test a natural turf design installation of natural grass playing fields. • Researching resilient grass types that will hold up under extensive community use. • Pilot program funding will be requested in fiscal year 2025 budget.
1	Reduce Paved Surfaces and Replace Remaining Impervious Parking Areas with Pervious Paving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the potential for use of alternative materials and outlining costs related to potential changes to our current paving practices. • Capital Programs will request alternative paving in all future projects.

2	Investigate Building Structures and Retrofit Green Roofs Where Feasible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring blue roofs and solar roofs in lieu of green roofs for existing facilities due to the potential structural implications. • Considering green roofs for new construction projects only as required for meeting stormwater management requirements and on an individual project basis. Green roofs will need a waiver due to current requirements for solar panels on new construction.
3	Preserve Existing Trees and Woodlands During Site Development Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring implementation of tree credits at alternative land sites. • Working with MNCPPC to comply with new county forestry management requirements that limit ability to remove mature trees. • Working on constructive measures for response to community safety complaints regarding existing trees on PGCPs property in an effort to maintain compliance with the new county forestry management requirements.
4	Reuse Already Developed Properties for School Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased additional adjacent land in New Carrollton to expand existing sites towards greater effectiveness. • Plans underway to develop new schools in the current Capital Improvement Plan on existing school land. • Developing memorandum of understanding (MOU) for Mullikin Bus Lot project to provide additional land for electric bus charging facilities as part of work to update and expand the existing bus lot and service station.

Recommendation #8: Lead by Example to Support Transformational Change

To support transformational change in all the priority areas, PGCPS launched the #PGCPSGreen campaign this school year to spotlight school-based and student-led efforts. Staff tracked and supported local and state climate change legislation and incorporated equity considerations into priority area decisions and actions.

#	Operational / Mitigation / Adaptive Action	Update as of July 2023
1	Create a Sustainability & Resiliency Officer Position in the PGCP Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved to Priority 2.1
2	Ensure that Equity Permeates Through All Decisions Implementing the CCAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilized review process to assist with applying an equity lens to decisions and actions for each priority area. Equity Coaches attended meetings with Priority Leads and/or Priority Teams to support reflection on equity considerations.
3	Ensure Equitable, Meaningful Student and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched #PGCPSGreen social media campaign to highlight student-led and school-based initiatives, particularly those focused on eco-friendly commemorations (i.e., Earth Day, Food Waste Prevention Week). Researching feasibility of collaborations with Prince George's County Regional Association of Student Governments.
4	Ensure that Negotiated Workforce Contracts Respond to the CCAP Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing regulations for support personnel. Exploring measures to reduce printing costs.
5	Lobby for Necessary Changes to State, County and Federal Law and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted letters of support for Senate Bill 223/House Bill 230 — Zero Emissions Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023) and Senate Bill 613/House Bill 908 — Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program

6	Ensure that Capital Program and Other Budgetary Decisions Keep the CCAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjusted construction purchasing requirements to emphasize compliance with Climate Change Action Plan. Added 20 electric school buses (nine Blue Bird and 11 International), scheduled to arrive December 2023, to the fleet. PGcps previously purchased one electric school bus. Developing plans for 21 electric buses to serve as a pilot project on incorporating new technology into the existing school bus transportation fleet. Selected propane-powered portable charging units as temporary solutions. Exploring permanent charging solutions to power the 20 new electric buses. Financial considerations include the readiness and feasibility of the existing bus lot for infrastructure upgrades, cost of maintenance of infrastructure, power management planning, workforce costs. Installed infrastructure for solar panels as part of the design and construction of first and second group of Blueprint Schools. PGcps plans to receive rebate funds from these new schools.
7	Calculate a PGcps Greenhouse Gas Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested pricing from vendor to catalog and barcode all maintenance equipment by September 2023. The vendor will also provide pricing to calculate energy usage for equipment. Developing tiered plan to phase out all equipment currently powered by gas from all schools. Recently purchased 10 battery-powered weed eaters for use at school properties. Working to replace all aged HVAC equipment charged with R-22 refrigerant. The largest pieces of equipment (chillers) are the first type of equipment targeted in this plan. Note: <i>Moving to Priority 2, effective July 1, 2023</i>
8	Update Inaugural Climate Change Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published the Mid-Year Report in February 2023 for download at pgcps.org/climate-change. Shared May 2023 feedback from the Climate Parents of Prince George's with the respective priority groups.