



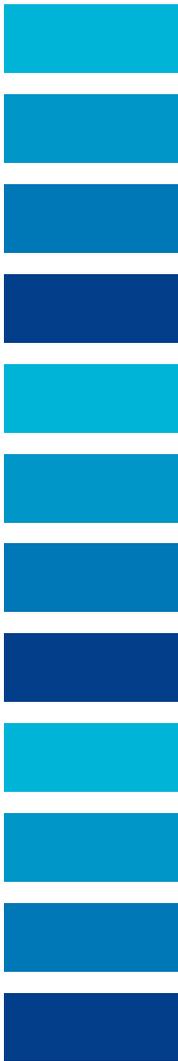
Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ACES)

2025 | 2026 Annual Report



Agenda

- 1** Purpose & Focus Areas
- 2** Sustainability Updates
- 3** ACES Recommendations



Strategic Plan: Learning for All

VISION

Our learners are engaged in authentic, challenging, and relevant learning experiences, becoming lifelong contributors and leaders in our dynamic and diverse society.

MISSION

Working together as a team, we will end the predictive value of race, class, gender, and special capacities for our children's success through high-quality teaching and learning for all. We seek to build relationships with families and communities to ensure that every student succeeds.

We will know every student.

VALUES

Equity
Excellence
Family and Community
Wellness

GOALS



Thriving Students



Affirming and Empowering Communities



Equitable, Transformative Resources

Purpose

The Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ACES):

- Advises on ways to help ACPS develop & reach sustainability goals.
- Fosters an integrated series of tools & knowledge for the growth of environmental awareness
- Coordinates the implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan as it relates to the schools.



ACES Focus Areas

Focus Areas Defined in Climate Action Plan:

- Transportation & Land Use
- Buildings & Renewables
- Sustainable Materials Management
- Landscape, Natural Resources, & Agriculture

ACES Added:

- Curriculum Integration of Climate Action

Transportation
&
Land Use



Buildings
&
Renewables



Sustainable
Materials
Management



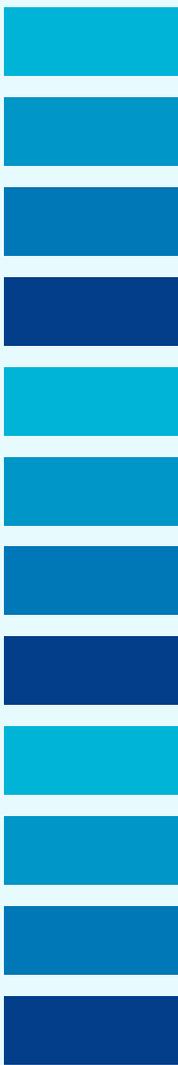
Landscape,
Natural
Resources, &
Agriculture



Curriculum
Integration
of Climate
Action



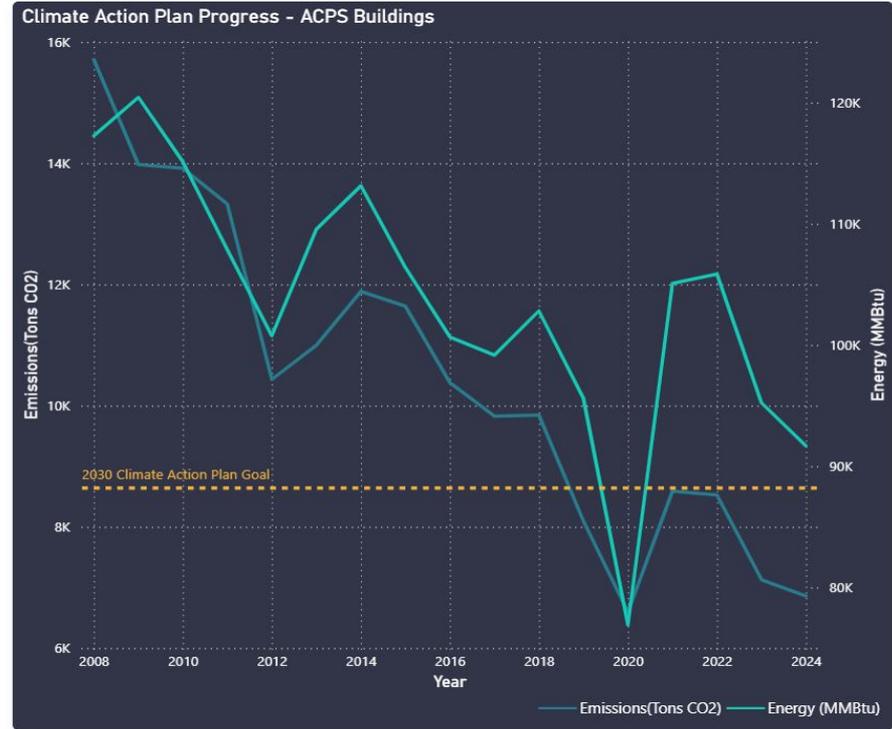
SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES



Energy Efficiency

Key Highlights:

- Record Low building energy consumption in 2024, despite added facility space.
- Building Sector GHG emissions have remained below the CAP 2030 target of 45% reduction since 2019.
- All ACPS school buildings qualify for ENERGY STAR certification with an average score of 99 out of 100.





Solar Energy at ACPS

- ACPS has 4.8MW of Rooftop Solar Projects underway at 11 schools
- First installations planned for winter/spring of 2026
- Procured using self-owned and power purchase agreement ownership models.
- Expected to generate 33% of ACPS' total electricity usage
- Expected savings of \$10 million over 25 years*

Solar Education

Through ACPS's partnership with Madison Energy Infrastructure on solar PPA projects, students have gained hands on experience with:

- Solar energy
- Electrical circuits
- Energy transformations
- Solar Careers

Lessons are aligned with Virginia SOL standards.





Sustainability Liaisons

Monticello High:

The MHS Environmental Club under the leadership of Liaison Erikka Goff has been collecting waste paper towels from bathrooms and diverted to the school's composting stream.

Albemarle High:

The AHS Make a Change club led by liaison Diana Webber collected plastic film waste, and repurposed that waste by knitting sleeping mats which are donated to homeless shelters. The group was awarded UVA's Sustainability Leadership Award for their work.

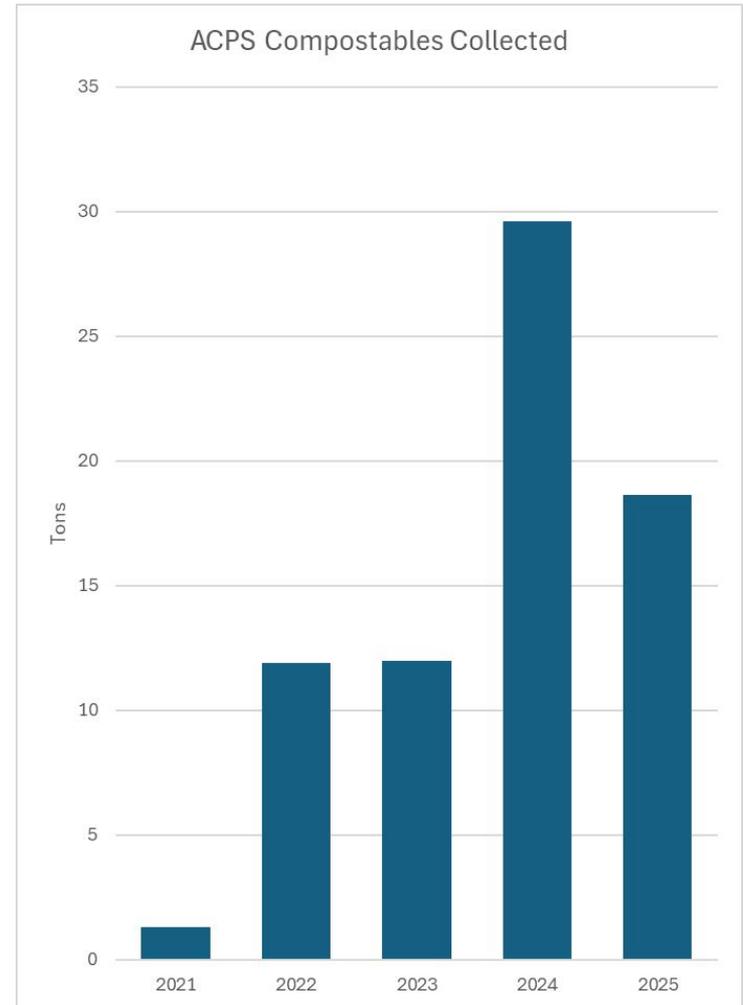
Mountain View Elementary:

Sustainability Liaisons Mary Morales & Chelsea Lundgren's expansive work to educate students and fellow staff on sustainable initiatives led to MVE being a recipient of the National Wildlife Federation's EcoSchools Award

Composting & Recycling

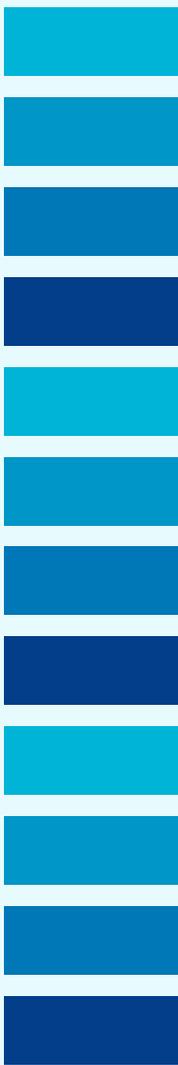
Highlights:

- Compostable materials collected in CY-2024 exceeded all previous years combined
- Mid-year 2025 data indicates that the division is on track to set another record for compostable collection.
- Lead Custodian, Melvin Bradley, at Walton Middle collected cardboard boxes throughout the year for staff use as end-of-year boxes. As a result, no purchased boxes were needed at Walton!



ACES

RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendation 1:

Adoption of Idling Reduction
Language in Policy EEBA



Adoption of Idling Reduction Language in Policy EEBA

Reductions in vehicle idling have been shown to have numerous benefits including:

- **Health**
- **Environmental**
- **Financial**



Image Source: Idling Action London

Adoption of Idling Reduction Language in Policy EEBA

ACES recommends that the School Board approve amendments to Policy EEBA

Highlights:

- Applies to light-duty fleet vehicles
- Sets maximum idling time at 5-minutes
- Requires operator to stay with vehicle while idling
- Allows exceptions for occupant safety, specialty equipment, maintenance, and warm-up during cold weather
- Intentionally broad language allows each department to develop SOPs aligning with their specific operational needs

Recommendation 2:

Light Duty Electric Vehicle Fleet
Goal





EV Fleet SMART Goal

ACES strongly encourages the School Board to support its EV fleet transition SMART goal.

Key Highlights

- Beginning in FY 27, 100% of light-duty vehicles being replaced, will be replaced with EVs if a comparable EV is available.
- Each vehicle slated for replacement will be evaluated to determine if a comparable EV is available.
- Budget Proposal to cover any cost difference in implementation to ensure continuity of fleet replacement cycles

Recommendation 3:

Reduction of Single-Use Plastics
in School Kitchens & Cafeterias



Single-Use Plastics Reduction

Benefits of reducing plastic waste:

- Reduction of unnecessary waste generation
- Reduced contamination of compostable streams
- Less health impacts associated with microplastics, PFAS, etc.
- Reduced operational cost
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions



Single-Use Plastics Reduction

ACES recommends that the School Board designate staff to evaluate current practices and develop actionable steps to reduce single-use plastic waste in ACPS kitchens & cafeterias.

Low cost measures suggested by ACES include:

- Reduce plastic utensils
- Purchase bulk condiments
- Eliminate unnecessary packaging
- Encourage share tables
- Improving waste stream signage and training

Recommendation 4:

Support for State-Level Actions
that Enable Onsite Renewable
Energy at Schools





Solar Energy Advocacy

ACES respectfully requests that the School Board and Superintendent support and advocate for state-level legislative and regulatory reforms that reduce barriers to onsite renewable energy at ACPS and other Virginia public schools

Benefits of Solar

- Mid-sized rooftop solar projects are the cornerstone of achieving ACPS' sustainability goals
- Solar is one of the cheapest form of energy generation available, so solar projects often offer long-term operational savings

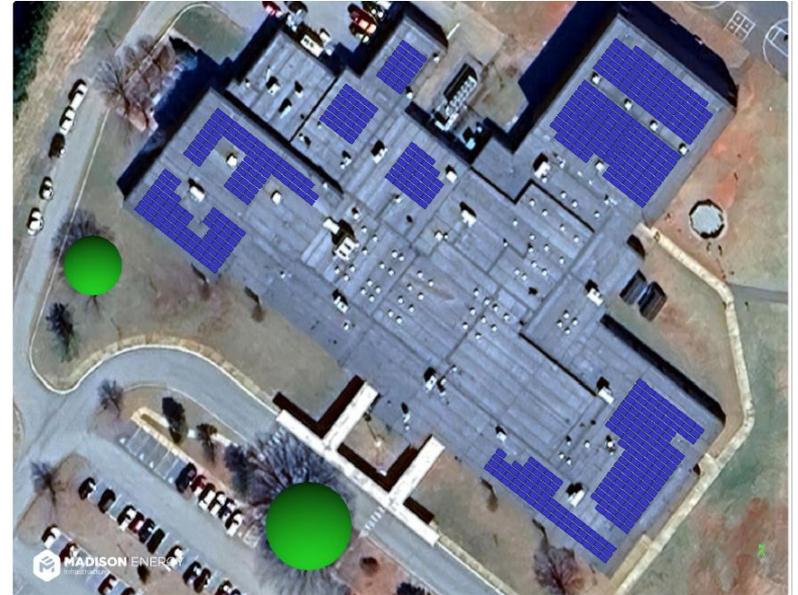
Threats to Solar at ACPS

- Interconnection Request Delays
- Excessive Grid Upgrade Costs
- Reduced Net Metering Credit

Solar Energy Advocacy



Original Design - 556 kW, \$1.2Million Savings



Current Design - 343kW, \$617K Savings



Questions?

ACES Requested Feedback:

- Is ACES achieving its goals?
- Topics for committee work?