

From: [Janet Romsaas](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Howard County Conservancy needs to be funded for Environmental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:08:25 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council -

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Janet Romsaas, Marriottsville, MD

From: [Janice Winter](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Save Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 5:38:49 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

My name is Janice Winter. I have been working on the ground-breaking Environmental Education programs offered by Ann Strozyk, a HCPSS educator working with the Howard County Conservancy. Her HCPSS Environment Education position allows her to spearhead important environmental programming to thousands of students each year. These programs include the Watershed Report Card for 9th and 10th grade students and the Climate Knowledge program for 6th grade students

Each fall, the Environmental Educator at the Howard County Conservancy organizes groups of volunteers to bring 9th and 10th grade students from each high school to their local stream to experience water quality issues firsthand. Without funding for the Environmental Education position, this important program would not happen. The program does not end with data collection. It continues by urging students to advocate for clean water in their community. Members of the County Council have witnessed one part of this student advocacy each spring at the Conservancy. Each spring, attendees are impressed by the students' enthusiasm when it comes to protecting our environment. Now is the time for the budget to show these students that HCPSS holds to its commitment to the education of future students on environmental issues.

The Environmental Education position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important HCPSS Environmental Education position to reach all of our county students.

Sincerely,

Janice Winter
3134 Kings Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

From: [Janine M. Kucik](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Cc: [Janine M. Kucik](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 9:40:49 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I am in shock that the Howard County Conservancy educational programming position is potentially going to be cut from the budget. I just can't wrap my brain around the logic in cutting a position that has been so successful in motivating and teaching students to get involved with solving real world environmental challenges. This is a partnership that works!! Please do not make a shortsighted choice to cut this programming. It would have a devastating impact on current and future students, not to mention the progress that our county has made in prioritizing environmental education.

Thank you,
Janine Kucik
Reservoir High

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jen MacCormack](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Educator Position
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:21:41 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon,

I am my disappointed that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL Howard County students. We absolutely must support the next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader in climate advocacy. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,
Jen MacCormack
6113 Loventree Rd, Columbia, MD 21044

From: [Jenny Park](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:10:21 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Jenny Park

From: [Jessamine Duvall](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Don't Cut Environmental Education Programming at HCPSS!
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:54:16 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Jessamine Duvall

6660 Dovecote Dr

Columbia, MD 21044

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jessica R. Cook](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Maintain or Increase Environmental Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:13:43 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive Ball and Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Jessica R. Cook

Columbia Resident and Mother of 2 HCPSS Students

From: [Joanna Ramos-Romero](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:14:44 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball and members of the Howard County Council and the Howard County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute (which was a formative and impactful experience for my daughter) rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Joanna Ramos-Romero

Mom of HCPSS 12th grader, alumnae of Youth Climate Institute, and enrolled Cornell Engineering student focused on sustainability

From: [Jodi L. Duff](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Cc: [BoE Email](#)
Subject: Fund environmental education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:09:54 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening - I am shocked and disappointed to hear that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy may be cut from the budget. As you are well aware, this position is critical in helping Howard County meet the Maryland State mandated environmental literacy graduation requirement.

I understand that your job is to propose and vote on a sound and manageable budget, but I would argue that your job goes beyond managing dollars. Your job, like mine, should also focus on the bigger picture. I have been part of the Watershed Report card since the program began 9 years ago. I am blessed that I have the opportunity to see first-hand how that program has influenced our young people. My students were part of the student task force that met with Dr. Ball on 2 occasions to discuss their ideas for controlling flooding in Old Ellicott City. Those same students are now in college with a goal of pursuing careers such as Environmental law, Urban planning, Environmental engineering and Marine Biology. The Watershed Program was the seed that grew into their passion for Environmental Stewardship. I currently have several students that are part of the Youth Climate Institute, and they also plan to pursue a degree in an Environmental field. Please reconsider funding the Environmental Educator position. Please don't take away the opportunity for our young people to experience the programs the Howard County Conservancy provides to this community.

Jodi Duff
MESA and Science Olympiad Sponsor
SNHS Co-Sponsor
Medical Studies Club Sponsor
Long Reach HS
Jodi_Duff@hcpss.org

From: [Judy Wolf](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Urgent - We must keep the Environmental Educator at the Conservancy!
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:45:48 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. If this position is to be cut, what will be put into place to maintain these programs and experiences for the students of Howard County Public Schools?

Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate Knowledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. Many of our students would never have the opportunity to explore these experiences if not for these programs.

It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Judith Wolf

From: [Julia Chen](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Against Environmental Education Budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:37:50 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To all members of the County Council:

You may have already received some emails about proposed budget cuts to environmental education programs and teachers, along with the Howard County Conservancy. This is adding onto that.

My name's Julia, and I'm a current junior at Reservoir High School. Initially, I wasn't very involved in environmental matters. But then I was introduced to a vibrant community of climate activists and environmentally conscious students through the Conservancy's Youth Climate Institute for high school students - and that's when I gained the full education and awareness that pushed me to now learn about environmental science and biology, start volunteering as a tutor, present at various green events (HoCo GreenFest is really fun woo!), and start a Girl Scout Gold Award project to create educational materials on water quality.

I am not exaggerating when I say that these programs have changed the trajectory of my life. Environmental education is far too influential and important now to be reduced; it may cost the county more in the short term, but think of the long-term benefits.

You are considering funding for the education of thousands of future environmental scientists, engineers, and educators. We all wait anxiously on your decision - please make the right choice.

-Julia (one YCI member of many)

From: [Karen B. Estrada](#)
To: boe@hcpss.org
Cc: superintendent@hcpss.org; [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: KEEP the Environmental Educator position at Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:46:56 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Board of Education and Dr. Martirano:

I am writing to urge you to vote in support of environmental education in Howard County and to KEEP the full time Environmental Educator position held by Ann Strozyk at the Howard County Conservancy. For 13 years, Ann has worked tirelessly to bring quality environmental programming to the students of Howard County with the support of the Howard County Conservancy staff and volunteers. She has paved the way for groundbreaking environmental education programs, including the new 6th grade Climate Knowledge program, funded by a grant from NOAA, and the 9th and 10th grade Watershed Report Card, now in its 10th year.

The partnership between HCPSS and the Howard County Conservancy allows these programs to work; they are developed and refined by Conservancy staff and talented volunteers (many of whom are retired science educators), who have spent hundreds of hours preparing curriculum and materials to make these programs educational and engaging. Ann has effectively recruited and maintained a strong core of qualified volunteers who are willing to give their time to deliver these programs to the students of HCPSS. Without these volunteers, these programs CAN NOT happen. Without Ms. Strozyk, you would likely lose many of the volunteers with whom she has nurtured relationships during her tenure at the Conservancy, rendering these amazing programs undeliverable.

As a volunteer at the Howard County Conservancy, I have seen firsthand how important this kind of experiential, hands-on environmental education is for our students. As a HCPSS parent, I want my children (rising 6th and 3rd graders) to have the opportunity to experience the Climate Knowledge and Watershed Report Card programs.

I invite you observe Ms. Strozyk in action; see how her work impacts over a thousand HCPSS students each year. Watch how she engages with and shows gratitude to the dozens of volunteers who make these programs possible. Hers is a role that actively impacts all HCPSS 6th grade students and most 9th grade science students, giving them impactful opportunities that are unique to Howard County to engage in real, tangible environmental science.

Please keep Ann Strozyk's Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy; this VITAL role is essential to bringing innovative, engaging, and important environmental education to our HCPSS students and helping to foster good stewards of the environment. We cannot afford to lose it!

Sincerely,
Karen Estrada
Atholton Elementary School Parent (2nd/5th grade)
Howard County Conservancy Volunteer
Maryland Master Naturalist

From: [Katie White](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); [BoE Email](#)
Subject: HCPSS Environmental Educator Position
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 8:43:13 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball, Howard County Council, and Howard County Board of Education:

My name is Katie White; I am a 6th grade science teacher at Elkridge Landing Middle School. I am writing to advocate the continued funding of HCPSS's full-time Environmental Educator, as this position serves a critically important role for our students and community.

I joined HCPSS last fall after teaching science for ten years in New York State. When searching for positions in Maryland, your district stood out to me because of its support for an embedded educator who serves as a liaison between the Howard County Conservancy and the District. Through this fruitful partnership, our students have benefitted from robust environmental education programs that have garnered state and national attention, such as the Watershed Report Card and Climate Knowledge Curriculum.

As a 6th grade science teacher, I have worked extensively with our Environmental Educator, Ann Strozyk, on the district's Climate Knowledge curriculum. This curriculum is the first of its kind in the region and one of the few cohesive middle school climate change curricula in our country. Frankly, this effort would not have been possible without Ms. Strozyk. She has been instrumental in providing ongoing teacher professional development, forging partnerships with community stakeholders, and organizing the herculean logistics of student trips and schoolyard field experiences. This curriculum is in the process of scaling up to be taught by all 6th grade science teachers in the district next year; at a time when we would need the most support, you are proposing to remove it by cutting this position.

Additionally, Ms. Strozyk manages our district's Watershed Report Card program, an authentic field science experience for 9th and 10th grade students. About to celebrate its 10-year anniversary, this program has coordinated the efforts of thousands of students across the county in their collection of data about the health of our watershed. This information has been used to shape policy decisions and has empowered our students to be change agents in their communities.

By continuing to fund the Environmental Educator position, you would demonstrate your commitment to providing environmental education opportunities for our students. You would demonstrate your commitment to fulfilling Maryland's Environmental Literacy Instructional Standards, which call for meaningful environmental literacy education for all our state's

students. Perhaps most importantly, you would demonstrate your commitment to leading the way in cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

In a time when our collective inaction has led us into uncharted climate disaster and environmental degradation, would you truly propose removing the supports that would help our community secure a better future? I implore you to reconsider.

Sincerely,

Katie White
6th Grade Science
Elkridge Landing Middle School
410-313-5040

From: [Kim Pezza](#)
To: [Calvin Ball](#); [CouncilMail](#); boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Keep the Environmental Educator Position
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 1:12:40 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Board of Education, County Executive Dr. Ball and Howard County Council members,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Kim Pezza

Vice-chair of the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board

Vice-chair of the Columbia Association Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Board member of the Howard County Sierra club

Climate change policy analyst, Maryland Department of the Environment, Climate Change Program

Participant in the development of the "Resolution to establish goals for energy efficiency, clean energy and electrification of HCPSS".

From: [Kimberly Yang](#)
To: boe@hcpss.org
Cc: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Please NO cuts to Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy.
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:45:44 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Board of Education,

Please **do not cut the full-time Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy.**

After 16 years of groundbreaking environmental education programs serving the students and teachers of HCPSS, this position is essential to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirement.

Ann Strozyk, the award winning educator in this role, has been with the school system for 23 years with 13 of those years onsite at the Conservancy delivering programs to all middle and high school students in the county.

Howard County is one of the few counties in Maryland that does not have a school system funded environmental education center. Most school systems spend millions of dollars every year to own and operate their own centers. The cost effective partnership with the Howard County Conservancy (a private nonprofit) not only provides 20,000 county students with hands-on environmental and outdoor education each year, but has also led to the development of award winning and groundbreaking programs including:

~ 9 & 10th grade Watershed Report Card – about to celebrate its 10th anniversary

~ Climate Knowledge, a first of its kind 6th grade climate curriculum supported by a federal grant from NOAA, and

~ the new and growing Youth Climate Institute.

These programs provide critically important science education and engage generations in environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Yang
4801 Ellicott Woods Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

From: [Lauren's Garden Service & Native Nursery](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Continued Critical Funding for Environmental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:30:46 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello Dr Ball,

As a resident and business owner in Howard County I am requesting that you vote for continued critical funding for environmental education. How can I help? What do you need from me?

Thanks,

Lauren Turner

--

**Lauren's Garden Service
& Native Plant Nursery**
Eco-Friendly landscapers



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Call now for a FREE ESTIMATE REQUEST!
410-461-2535

From: [Loreen Heinz](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Educator budget cut
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:00:14 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear members of the County Council,

As a Howard Countian and as a former teacher in the Howard County Public Schools, I am writing to express my dismay that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. We know that experiential learning has long lasting rewards; also, people who are connected to nature live happier, healthier lives.

For the benefit of our children and the future of Howard County, please continue to fund this position.

Sincerely,

Loreen V Heinz

10460 Owen Brown Road

Columbia MD 21044

From: [Mark Southerland](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Please retain Environmental Educator position in budget
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 10:42:09 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

County Council,

The Howard County Board of Education has proposed cutting the full-time Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy after 16 years of groundbreaking environmental education programs that serve the students and teachers of HCPSS. The signature programming developed through this partnership is absolutely essential to the county's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirement. Ann Strozyk, the award winning educator in this role, has been with the school system for 23 years with 13 of those years onsite at the Conservancy delivering programs to all middle and high school students in the county.

Howard County is one of the few counties in Maryland that does not have a school system funded environmental education center. Most school systems spend millions of dollars every year to own and operate their own centers. The cost effective partnership with the Howard County Conservancy (a private nonprofit) not only provides 20,000 county students with hands-on environmental and outdoor education each year, but has also led to the development of award winning and groundbreaking programs. These programs include the 9 & 10th grade Watershed Report Card - about to celebrate its 10th anniversary - Climate Knowledge, a first of its kind 6th grade climate curriculum supported by a federal grant from NOAA, and the new and growing Youth Climate Institute. These programs not only provide critically important science education but also engage and empower future generations in environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Mark Southerland PhD
6135 Llanfair Drive
Columbia MD 21044

From: [Mary Nichols](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Budget decision
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:41:29 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

> Good afternoon

>

> I was very disappointed that consideration is being given to eliminating funding for environmental education programs in Howard County schools.

>

> Howard County boasts about its parks, conservation efforts, green buildings, etc. Yet, to think that we would deny our students from learning how to be future stewards of our environment makes no sense to me. The programs offered through the Howard County Conservancy are raising awareness in our youth of their personal responsibility to protect and preserve our very special

> County for future generations.

>

> Please do the right thing and retain these funds in the budget.

>

> Mary Nichols

> 6521 Lawyers Hill RD

> Elkridge MD 21075

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Price](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Funding the HCPSS environmental education programs
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:37:55 PM
Attachments: [Ball letter.docx](#)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

9254 Pigeonwing Place

Columbia, MD 21045

May 23, 2023

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask you to fund fully the environmental education programs for Howard County Public Schools. These programs in elementary, middle, and high school help our students meet the environmental literacy standards as mandated by the state of Maryland.

In addition, these programs build our next generation of environmental stewards. Howard County is rich in streams, lakes, animals, plants, farmland, and urban/suburban lands. Building upon all that HCPSS has done in their environmental programs, and all that you and the county have done to preserve and enhance our environment, it will be left to the next generation to protect our land, water, and air.

I hope you will consider fully funding the environmental programs developed by the Howard County Public School system.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Price

Maryland Master Naturalist

Maryland Master Watershed Steward

Volunteer at Robinson Nature Center

From: [Meg Ballman](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Please do not cut the Environmental Educator position at the Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 9:54:30 PM
Attachments: [Please do not cut the Environmental Educator position at the Conservancy.docx](#)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Attached is my public comment.

Please do not cut the Environmental Educator position at the Conservancy

Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut.

This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader.

I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

The Conservancy has been an important part of our family life and our child's growth. It is critical that all students have access to the high-quality environmental education that the Conservancy is uniquely equipped to provide through this partnership with HCPSS.

Sincerely,
Meg Ballman

From: [Megan Williams](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#); boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Funding for Environmental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:51:24 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon,

Please do not cut funding for HCPSS environmental education programming. Without such programs, I never would have ended up in the career field I am in today.

As former president of the Howard County Young Democrats, previous board member of the Howard County Conservancy, and active environmental justice advocate, I strongly oppose this proposal. Our youth need opportunities to engage with such vital material, given the state of our climate, country, and the health of our own community.

If these changes to the budget are upheld, your vote is an action against current and future generations. You are directly impacting their agency and right to learn about their natural surroundings, environmental degradation, and how they can go about changing the status quo for their own futures.

I urge you to reconsider these cuts. Thanks and good luck with budget finalization,

Best,
Megan Williams
megantaylorwilliams@gmail.com

From: [Melissa Maloney](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Critical Funding for Environmental Education at the Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:35:07 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Melissa Maloney
5289 Five Fingers Way, Columbia, MD 21045

From: [Mia Stott](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Educator funds
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:46:47 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Mia Stott

--

Mia Stott
Salisbury University
Class of 2024

From: [Ziegler, Natalie Delegate](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Howard County Environmental Educator Position
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:46:01 PM
Attachments: [Letter regarding Howard County Environmental Educator position.docx](#)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please see attached letter.

Thank you,

Delegate Natalie Ziegler, District 9A
6 Bladen St, Room 214
Annapolis, MD 21401

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Legislative District 9A
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Environment and Transportation Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 214
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3352 · 301-858-3352
800-492-7122 Ext. 3352
Natalie.Ziegler@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

May 23rd, 2023

Dear Howard County Council,

It has come to my attention that the Howard County Board of Education has proposed cutting the full-time Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. The signature programming developed through this partnership has been a cost-effective investment and essential to the county's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirement.

Howard County is one of the few counties in Maryland that does not have a school system funded environmental education center. Most school systems spend millions of dollars every year to own and operate their own centers. The cost-effective partnership with the Howard County Conservancy (a private nonprofit) not only provides 20,000 county students with hands-on environmental and outdoor education each year, but has also led to the development of award winning and groundbreaking programs. These programs include the 9th & 10th grade Watershed Report Card, Climate Knowledge, a first of its kind 6th grade climate curriculum supported by a federal grant from NOAA, and the new and growing Youth Climate Institute. These programs not only provide critically important science education but also engage and empower future generations in environmental stewardship. I had the pleasure of attending this year's Watershed Report Card Summit, and I was thoroughly impressed by the level of work the students presented. It would be a shame to take this opportunity away from our county's future learners.

I know there are difficult decisions to make in working out our school system's budget, but I hope you will consider the cost-effective value the Environmental Educator position has delivered to the county for the past 16 years. Thank you for taking my concerns into your consideration.

Kind regards,

Natalie Ziegler

Maryland House of Delegates, District 9A

From: [Nicole Alston](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:57:32 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader in environmental education. I hope you reconsider funding this critically important position.

Sincerely,

Nicole D. Alston

~Be the reason someone feels welcomed, seen, heard, valued, loved and supported. ~

From: [Nora Heinz](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Educator
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6:13:12 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear members of the Council,

As a 50 year resident of Howard County I am writing to express my deep disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. We will all be affected by climate change and we must nurture a new generation that will value our environment. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Nora Heinz
5544 April Journey
Columbia Md 21044

From: [pcully](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:25:07 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Cully, CISSP, PMP, PSM1

"If it isn't documented, it doesn't exist; if it can't be measured, it has no value."

From: [Paul Bade](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Cc: [Yungmann, David](#)
Subject: Please continue to fund the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:05:47 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

I have volunteered at Howard County Conservancy. There is nothing like the excitement in the eyes of the children that visit the Howard County Conservancy on field trips. I am deeply concerned that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. If we don't connect children with nature, then they will not be good stewards of the environment. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on the environmental educator position at Howard Conservancy to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Respectfully,

Paul Bade

Ellicott City, MD