

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**DECISION ON**

**PROPOSED, REVISED BOARD POLICY  
*POLICY NO. 20-0023-000*  
ENERGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

**OCTOBER 23, 2023**

**Background Information:**

The Board maintains a manual which sets forth the various policies of the Harford County Public Schools. The manual contains policies which are either required by federal and state law and regulation or which are, in the Board's judgment, necessary and appropriate for the school system to operate in a lawful, appropriate and effective manner. Included among the Board's manual is a policy entitled, 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation.

**Discussion:**

House Bill 630 (HB630), an act concerning **Primary and Secondary Education – School District Energy Use** – was passed for the purpose of requiring each school district to adopt or update the school district's energy policy. HB630 specified the contents that must be included in each school district's energy policy. As necessary to comply with HB630, the Assistant Superintendent for Operations, the Executive Director of Facilities Management, and the Energy Resource Conservation Manager for Harford County Public Schools have reviewed the subject policy and through the Superintendent propose to add the following language to the existing Harford County Public Schools Board policy 20-0023-000 entitled Energy and Resource Conservation:

1. Explore and utilize creative procurement strategies to secure services required to implement planned energy conservation programs.
2. Utilize technology to monitor and develop energy usage reports concerning but not limited to:
  - a. The amount of electricity used from renewable energy sources; and
  - b. The overall electricity use by source and square foot; and
  - c. Current and historical data of energy used by square foot.

This policy was recommended by the Superintendent to the Board at the September 11, 2023, Board business meeting. This policy was posted for public comment for thirty (30) days. One (1) comment was received and forwarded to the Board for review.

**Attachments:**

1. Current Board policy entitled 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation.
2. Proposed, revised policy entitled DRAFT Policy No. 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation.
3. House Bill 630 (HB630).

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

For the foregoing reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the attached, proposed, revised policy entitled, 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation.

POLICY TITLE <b>Energy and Resource Conservation</b>		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/14/1997	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: 9/14/2009	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: 5/6/2002
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: District Management		

### I. Purpose

The purposes of this policy are to establish Board goals and objectives relating to energy conservation and environmental stewardship; to facilitate responsible conservation practices; to emphasize environmental education curriculum; to allow Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) to comply with current and future regulations relating to energy management and conservation; to establish practices that will be applied to all aspects of HCPS operation to include but not limited to Operations and Facilities Management, Transportation, Planning and Construction, Purchasing, and school-based decisions.

### II. Policy Statement

- A. It is the policy of the Board that HCPS shall conduct its business and operations to the extent reasonable and practical, so as to:
- 1) Utilize the minimum amount of energy.
  - 2) Explore and implement energy conservation programs.
  - 3) Utilize technology to monitor energy usage.
  - 4) Explore the use of renewable energy sources in both new and existing facilities.
  - 5) Utilize alternative funding approaches to leverage implementation of renewable energy, conservation, recycling projects through partnerships with private organizations and other creative funding strategies.
  - 6) Partner with other government institutions in energy and environmental stewardship programs.
- B. The Superintendent will consult with the Energy Management Committee to develop, review, and implement procedures which more fully implement this policy.

**Board Approval Acknowledged By:**



Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D., Secretary and Treasurer  
Board of Education of Harford County



Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Adopted	4/14/1997				
Reaffirmed	5/6/2002				
Amended	9/14/2009				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References		
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: <b>Patrick P. Spicer, Esquire</b>	JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: <b>General Counsel</b>	
PERSON RESPONSIBLE: <b>Patrick P. Spicer, Esquire</b>	JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: <b>General Counsel</b>	
DESIGNEE NAME: <b>Andrew P. Cassilly</b>	JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE: <b>Assistant Supervisor - Energy Management</b>	
REFERENCE 1 TYPE	REFERENCE 1 NO.	REFERENCE 1 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 2 TYPE:	REFERENCE 2 NO.	REFERENCE 2 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 3 TYPE:	REFERENCE 3 NO.	REFERENCE 3 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 4 TYPE:	REFERENCE 4 NO.	REFERENCE 4 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 5 TYPE:	REFERENCE 5 NO.	REFERENCE 5 DESCRIPTION:
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005:		

# POLICY

## Harford County Public Schools

POLICY TITLE: Energy and Resource Conservation		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/14/1997	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: <u>9/14/2009 8/18/23</u>	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: <u>5/6/2002</u>
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: District Management		

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### I. Purpose

The purposes of this policy are to establish Board goals and objectives relating to energy conservation and environmental stewardship; to facilitate responsible conservation practices; to emphasize environmental education ~~curriculum~~; to allow Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) to comply with current and future regulations relating to energy management and conservation; to establish practices that will be applied to all aspects of HCPS operation to include but not limited to Operations and Facilities Management, Transportation, Planning and Construction, Procurement, and school-based decisions.

### II. Statement of Policy

A. It is the policy of the Board that HCPS shall conduct its business and operations to the extent reasonable and practical, so as to:

1. Utilize the minimum amount of energy.
- ~~2.~~ Explore and implement energy conservation programs.
- ~~2-3.~~ Explore and utilize creative procurement strategies to secure services required to implement planned energy conservation programs.
4. Utilize technology to monitor and develop energy usage reports concerning but not limited to:
  - a. The amount of electricity used from renewable energy sources;
  - b. The overall electricity use by source and square foot; and
  - ~~3-c.~~ Current and historical data of energy use by square foot.
- ~~4-5.~~ Explore the use of renewable energy sources in both new and existing facilities.
- ~~5-6.~~ Utilize alternative funding approaches to leverage implementation of renewable energy, conservation, recycling projects through partnerships with private organizations and other creative funding strategies.
7. Partner with other government institutions in energy and environmental stewardship programs.
- ~~6-8.~~ Educate all stakeholders in best practices around energy conservation and environmental stewardship.

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# POLICY

Harford County Public Schools

- B. The Superintendent will consult with the Energy Management Committee to develop, review, and implement procedures ~~which more fully implement this~~ and policy.

**Board Approval Acknowledged By:**

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Sean W. Bulson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

DRAFT



# POLICY

## Harford County Public Schools

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Adopted	4/14/1997				
Reaffirmed	5/6/2002				
Amended	9/14/2009				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References	
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: <b>Bobbie Tolston</b> , <a href="#">CPP-NIGP</a> , <a href="#">CPPO</a> , <a href="#">CPPB</a>	JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: Energy <a href="#">Resource</a> Conservation Manager
PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE:
DESIGNEE NAME:	JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE:
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005:	

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### LEGAL REFERENCES<sup>1</sup>

References are set forth in the Procedure.

<sup>1</sup> All references are to specific federal or Maryland statutes or regulations. References are provided for convenience and informational purposes only and are not to be considered as exhaustive or as precluding Harford County Public Schools from relying upon any other statutes or regulations in support of a policy.

## Chapter 608

**(House Bill 630)**

AN ACT concerning

**Primary and Secondary Education – School District Energy Use – Policy and Study**

FOR the purpose of requiring each school district to adopt or update a school district energy policy beginning on a certain date; specifying the contents of a school district energy policy; encouraging school districts to set certain targets in their school district energy policy; requiring that a school district energy policy be posted on the school district's website and updated with a certain frequency; requiring the Interagency Commission on School Construction to coordinate with the Department of the Environment and the Maryland Energy Administration to develop a certain template on or before a certain date; requiring the Interagency Commission to coordinate with the Administration and the Maryland Clean Energy Center to study and make recommendations regarding the Maryland Net Zero Energy School Initiative Grant Program; requiring the Interagency Commission to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to school district energy policies.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 5–312.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education****5–312.1.**

**(A) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ADOPT OR UPDATE A SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY.**

**(B) A SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY MUST:**

**(1) ADDRESS THE PURCHASING, CONSERVATION, AND EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT;**

**(2) PROVIDE FOR THE MONITORING AND REPORTING OF:**

(I) THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY USED FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES;

(II) THE PERCENTAGE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ANNUAL ELECTRICITY USE THAT IS FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES; AND

(III) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OVERALL ELECTRICITY USE BY SOURCE AND SQUARE FOOT; AND

(3) INCLUDE CURRENT AND HISTORICAL DATA ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ENERGY USE BY SQUARE FOOT.

(C) IN ADOPTING OR UPDATING A SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ENCOURAGED TO SET TARGETS TO INCREASE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND REDUCE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

(D) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY SHALL BE:

(1) POSTED ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE; AND

(2) UPDATED EVERY ~~2~~ 3 YEARS.

(E) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A STANDARDIZED REPORTING TEMPLATE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN USE TO REPORT ON:

(1) THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT USED;

(2) THE PERCENTAGE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ANNUAL ELECTRICITY USE THAT IS FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES; AND

(3) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OVERALL ELECTRICITY USE BY:

(I) SOURCE;

(II) SQUARE FOOT; AND

(III) INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL, IF POSSIBLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Interagency Commission on School Construction shall coordinate with the Maryland Energy Administration and the Maryland Clean Energy Center to study and make recommendations on how to:

(1) expand the Maryland Net Zero Energy School Initiative Grant Program; and

(2) provide additional funding for the Maryland Net Zero Energy School Initiative Grant Program.

(b) On or before December 1, 2021, the Interagency Commission on School Construction shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.**