Schoolyard Report Card~

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-By the Student Action Team of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

How is your schoolyard doing? Is it helping the Chesapeake Bay or is it contributing to the Bay's current condition? Follow this Report Card and find out...

Run	off.	<u>Erosi</u>	on:									Your
1 Afr	er loc	sking at v	your sch	oolvard	man de	escribe	where i	n this ra	nge it f	alle		Score
1.711	.01 100	ing ut.	your sem	ooryara	map ac	3501100	where i	11 (1115 14	inge it i	ans.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		1.
(1=Er	ntirely	made o	f concre	te)					(10=	Totally Fo	orested)	
2. Yo	a)b)c)d)	well veg mowed g bare soil directly	drains retated tregrass (5) or imperinto stor x of all (ees and pts) rvious s m drain	shrubs surface	or un-r	nowed ;	grass (1	0 pts)			2.
	itchea a) b)	or wash very littl several p	of bare and out where the erosion patches coare, exp	egetation and feature s	on. The w patch soil or a	schooly nes of b reas wh	ard has are soil are soil	s: (10 pts l is erod) ing (7 _I		r has carved	3.
4. Do	es yo	ur schoo	l have ar	y of the	ese run-	off con	trol sys	tems:				
			1									
												4.
			ffer zone				ide)	.2 pts				
Helpf	ful ar	d fun so	lutions:									Runoff/
			e Spot pi									Erosion
		all a Rai										Total
	Plant your own Rain Garden											
	Plant a Buffer of trees next to your stream											
	Get	involve	d in build	ding a V	Vetland	or Pon	d					



Transportation:

1. Determine the number of people employed at your school (teachers, maintenance staff, food	Your					
service staff, administrators, etc.) by asking office staff. Look at the school parking lot and						
determine the number of vehicles relative to the number of employees.	Score					
a) there are 50% fewer cars in the parking lot than employees (10 pts)						
b) there are 25% fewer cars in the parking lot than employees (7 pts)	1					
c) there is about one car per employee in the parking lot (5 pts)	1.					
2. Are there bicycle racks at your school and do people use them?						
a) the bike rack is full of bikes (10 pts)						
b) the school has a bike rack but there are only a few bikes in it (7 pts)	2.					
c) the school has no bike rack and no bikes on the property (0 pts)						
3. Is there any reward or encouragement for teachers or students who walk to school, ride their						
bikes, carpool or take public transit?						
a) Yes (10 pts)	3.					
b) No (2 pts)	-					
4. Where does rain water drain after hitting the parking lot?						
a) highly vegetated area (10 pts)						
b) mowed or slightly vegetated drainage ditch (7 pts)	4.					
c) storm drain marked "Chesapeake Bay Drainage"						
d) unmarked storm drain	Trans.					
	Total					
	Total					

Low Score? Try these solutions:

- ☐ Incentives to **carpool**, use public transportation or ride a bicycle to school
- □ Install and use **Bike** racks
- □ Storm drain stenciling
- □ **Letter writing** to county for bike lanes
- □ **Vegetated** run-off control for parking lot and roads

Cars and trucks release contaminants that enter the Bay's ecosystem, affecting these indicators:

Vegetation:

- 1. Describe the vegetation on your schoolyard:
 - a) Trees and bushes cover a significant part of the schoolyard (10 pts)
 - b) Trees and bushes dot the landscape of the schoolyard (6 pts)
 - c) There are few or no trees on the schoolyard (0 pts)
- 2. How much of the grass and vegetated areas in your school are being mowed?
 - a) less than 50 % (10 pts)
 - b) between 50% and 80% (6 pts)
 - c) over 80% (4 pts)
- 3. Ask your school's lawn service or school maintenance staff how the mowed grass on the school grounds is fertilized.
 - a) Grass clippings are left on the grounds as natural fertilizer (10 pts)
 - b) Lawn fertilizer is used according to a formula after doing soil tests (8pts)
 - c) Lawn fertilizer is used according to instructions (6 pts)
 - d) Lawn fertilizer is applied randomly (5 pts)
- 4. Describe the vegetation in the lowest lying part of your schoolyard.
 - a) well vegetated with trees and shrubs (10 pts)
 - b) vegetated with unmowed grass (8 pts)
 - c) mowed grass (7 pts)
 - d) bare soil, pavement, or concrete (0 pts)

Any of these projects can add colorful habitat:

- □ Plant a wild **Meadow**
- □ Follow the CBF protocol to build a **Rain Garden**
- □ Begin your own **Micronursery** for tree plantings
- Scrub and shrub
- □ Attract wild colorful butterflies and birds by planting a **Wildlife Garden**
- □ Be aggressive and build a **Wetland**

Your Score

1.

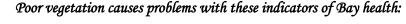
2.

3.

4.

Veg. Total







Biodiversity:

1. By counting the different types of leaves or bark, how many different types of trees are there on your schoolyard?

Your Score

1.

c) 4-6 (5 pts)

b) 7-9

d) less than 4 (4 pts)

a) 10 or more (10 pts)

(8 pts)

- 2. By counting the different types of leaves and berries, how many different types of shrubs are there on your schoolyard?

2.

- a) 7 or more (10 Pts)
- b) 4-6 (7 pts)
- c) less than 4 (4 pts)
- 3. Below are examples of habitats for animals. Which of the following apply to your schoolyard? (4 pts. for each)
 - a) woodlands with many layers of plants and trees
 - b) tall grassy fields/meadow
 - c) thick brush and brambles or a brush pile
 - d) dead standing trees or rotting logs on the ground
 - e) streams with forested buffers

3.

Biodiv. **Total**

To bring more **LIFE** to your schoolyard:

- □ Plant native shrubs and flowers that attract wildlife
- □ Identify what local **animals** may **need** and restore their habitat
- Ask your teacher how to **get involved**
- □ Plant trees

Preserving and restoring habitat increases biodiversity and helps improve these indicators:













*****BONUS****

Awareness:

- 1. Does your school have an environmental club, offer environmental science classes or a bay unit in science class? (1 point for each yes)
- 2. Is there a stream on your schoolyard? Is there access? (1 point for each yes)
- 3. Are there energy saving devices? (1 point for each yes)
 - -compact fluorescent
 - -skylights
 - -signs reminding you to turn off lights
- 4. Test your principal/administrator/science teacher: (2 points for each correct answer)
 - a. Is there a body of water attached to your schoolyard
 - b. What is the closest sewage treatment plant?
 - c. Where is the closest landfill?
 - d. Is there incentive for the staff to use public transit? (2 pt. for yes)
 - e. Does your school recycle? (2 pt. for yes)
 - f. Do you want to improve your schoolyard? (2 pt. for yes)

How to find out more:

- □ **Study** the Bay
- ☐ Go on a Chesapeake Bay Foundation field experience
- □ **Read** about the Bay
- □ Ask your teacher about the **Chesapeake Bay**

Your Score

1.

2.

3.

Bonus Points



Awareness of the Bay and solutions to its problems will improve all these indicators of Bay Health:



Now it's time to add your scores together to find out the health of your schoolyard...

Runoff/Erosion	
Transportation	
Vegetation	
Biodiversity	
Total	
Total + bonus points	

If you scored:

100-80 A-B: Your school is **excellent** habitat for many plants and animals and is a very healthy part of the watershed!

79-60 C-D: You are on the right track but there is more work to do if we want to Save the Bay! **59 or less:** Poor habitat. Many schools fall in this category so please help us in making your schoolyard a better place by doing one of the many projects listed at www.cbf.org.