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

**Runoff/Erosion:**

1. **Your school roof drains rainwater into mostly (choose one):**
   - ____ Well vegetated trees and shrubs or un-mowed grass (10 pts)
   - ____ Mowed grass (5 pts)
   - ____ Bare soil or impervious surface (3 pts)
   - ____ Directly into storm drain (0 pts)
   - ____ An even mix of all of the above (6 pts)

2. **Look for patches of bare soil and signs of erosion such as areas where rainwater has carved out ditches or washed out vegetation. The schoolyard has (choose one):**
   - ____ Very little erosion and few patches of bare soil (10 pts)
   - ____ Several patches of bare soil or areas where soil is eroding (7 pts)
   - ____ Mostly bare, exposed soil or impervious surfaces (0 pts)

3. **Does your school have any of these run-off control systems (choose all that apply):**
   - ____ Rain Garden (3 pts)
   - ____ 10 or more Canopy Trees providing cover to rooftops or roadways (2 pts)
   - ____ Conservation Landscape (2 pts)
   - ____ 50 feet or more of a forested buffer zone (3 pts)

4. **After looking at your schoolyard map, describe where in this range it falls.**

   1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10
   (1 = Entirely made of pavement) (10 = Totally forested)

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Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:
Vegetation:

1. Describe the vegetation at your school (choose one):
   ___ Full-sized mature trees and bushes cover a significant part of the schoolyard (10 pts)
   ___ Small, immature trees and bushes cover a significant part of the schoolyard (8 pts)
   ___ Full sized mature trees and bushes dot the landscape of the schoolyard (5 pts)
   ___ Small immature trees and bushes dot the landscape of the schoolyard (3 pts)
   ___ There are few to no trees and bushes on the schoolyard (1 pt)

2. Describe the invasive plant infestation at your school:
   ___ There are no invasive plants present on the schoolyard (10 pts)
   ___ There are minimal invasive plants present on the schoolyard (8 pts)
   ___ There are a significant amount of invasives present but only on the ground, not climbing the trees (3 pts)
   ___ There are a significant amount of invasives present on the ground and climbing trees (1 pt)

3. How much of the grass and vegetated areas in your schoolyard are being mowed?
   ___ Less than 50% (10 pts)
   ___ Between 50% and 80% (6 pts)
   ___ Over 80% (1 pt)

4. Ask your school’s maintenance staff how the mowed grass is fertilized (choose one):
   ___ Grass clippings are left on the ground as natural mulch (10 pts)
   ___ Lawn fertilizer is used according to recommendations from a soil test (6 pts)
   ___ Lawn fertilizer is used according to instructions on the bag (1 pt)
   ___ Lawn fertilizer is applied randomly (0 pt)

5. Describe the vegetation in the lowest lying part of your schoolyard (choose one):
   ___ Well vegetated with native trees and shrubs (10 pts)
   ___ Well vegetated with un-mowed grass (6 pts)
   ___ Well vegetated with invasive plants (4 pts)
   ___ Mowed Grass (3 pts)
   ___ Bare soil, pavement, or concrete (1 pt)

Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:
Biodiversity:

1. By counting the different types of leaves, how many different types of canopy trees are there on your schoolyard?
   - 10 or more (10 pts)
   - 7-9 (8 pts)
   - 4-6 (5 pts)
   - 2-4 (3 pts)
   - 1 (1 pt)

2. By counting the different types of leaves, how many different types of shrubs are there on your schoolyard?
   - 10 or more (10 pts)
   - 7-9 (8 pts)
   - 4-6 (5 pts)
   - 2-4 (3 pts)
   - 1 (1 pt)

3. By counting the different types of leaves, how many different types of flowering plants and grasses are in the gardens on your schoolyard?
   - 20 or more (10 pts)
   - 15-19 (8 pts)
   - 10-14 (5 pts)
   - 5-9 (3 pts)
   - 1-4 (1 pt)

4. Below are examples of habitats for animals. Choose any of the following that apply to your schoolyard:
   - Woodlands with many different layers of plants and trees (2 pts)
   - Tall grassy fields and meadows (2 pts)
   - Thick brush and brambles or a brush pile (2 pts)
   - Dead standing trees or rotting logs on the ground (2 pts)
   - Gardens with native plants (2 pts)
Transportation:

1. Determine the number of people employed at your school (teachers, maintenance staff, food service staff, administrators, etc.) by asking the office staff. Look at the school parking lot and determine the number of vehicles relative to the number of employees:
   ____ 50% fewer cars than employees (10 pts)
   ____ 25% fewer cars than employees (5 pts)
   ____ There is about one car per employee (0 pt)

2. Determine the number of students at your school by asking the office staff. Then determine the number of students who arrive at school in a car and not a bus. Compare the two numbers:
   ____ 25% or less of the students arrive in a car (10 pts)
   ____ 50% of the students arrive in a car (7 pts)
   ____ 75% of the students arrive in a car (3 pts)
   ____ 100% of the students arrive in a car (0 pt)

3. Are there bicycle racks at your school, and do people use them?
   ____ There are more than 4 bike racks, and they are full of bikes (10 pts)
   ____ There are between 2 and 4 bike racks, and they are full of bikes (8 pts)
   ____ There is one bike rack, and it is full of bikes (5 pts)
   ____ There is one bike rack, and it is not very full (3 pts)
   ____ There are no bike racks (0 pt)

4. Is there any reward or encouragement for teachers or students who walk to school, ride their bikes, carpool, or take public transit?
   ____ Yes (10 pts)
   ____ No (0 pt)

5. Where does most of the rainwater drain after hitting the parking lot? (choose one)
   ____ Highly vegetated area (10 pts)
   ____ Mowed area or slightly vegetated drainage ditch (5 pts)
   ____ Storm drain marked “Chesapeake Bay Drainage” (2 pts)
   ____ Unmarked storm drain (1 pt)
   ____ Directly into a stream (0 pt)

Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:
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*****Bonus Points*****

(70 points max.)

**Awareness:**

1. **Does your school have any of the following classes/clubs?** *(choose all that apply)*
   - An environmental club *(5 pts)*
   - An environmental science class *(5 pts)*
   - A Chesapeake Bay unit in science class *(5 pts)*

2. **Does your school have any of the following energy saving techniques?** *(choose all that apply)*
   - CFL bulbs *(5 pts)*
   - Sky lights *(5 pts)*
   - Green roof *(5 pts)*
   - Signs reminding you to turn off lights *(5 pts)*

3. **Does your school recycle?**
   - Yes *(5 pts)*
   - No *(0 pts)*

4. **Does your school have an outdoor garden classroom? If so what condition is it in?** *(choose one):*
   - There is a well maintained outdoor classroom that is full of native plants and is heavily used *(10 pts)*
   - There is a well maintained outdoor classroom that is full of native plants and is used occasionally *(5 pts)*
   - There is an outdoor classroom that is full of invasive plants and not used *(3 pts)*
   - There is no outdoor classroom *(0 pts)*

5. **Does your school have any installed habitats for animals?** *(choose all that apply)*
   - Bluebird boxes *(5 pts)*
   - Bat Boxes *(5 pts)*
   - Butterfly gardens *(5 pts)*
   - Ponds *(5 pts)*

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Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:
RainScapes for Schools Environmental Report Card

Score Total:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Runoff/Erosion</td>
<td>_____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total:</strong></td>
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<td>Awareness bonus points</td>
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<td><strong>Final Score:</strong></td>
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(Maximum total: 250 pts.)

Want to improve your score? Try these solutions!

Runoff/erosion:
- Build a RainScapes rain garden
- Plant a Canopy Tree near pavement
- Convert grassy areas into a RainScapes Conservation Landscape

Vegetation:
- Plant a pollinator-friendly educational RainScapes conservation landscape
- Build a RainScapes rain garden
- Begin your own micro-nursery for tree plantings
- Allow an area to become a no-mow
- Remove invasive plants and replace with natives

Biodiversity:
- Plant native shrubs and flowers that attract wildlife
- Identify what local animals may need, and restore their habitat

Transportation:
- Encourage your school to incentivize carpooling, public transportation, and bicycle riding to school
- Install and use bike racks
- Storm drain stenciling
- Install RainScapes for run-off control next to parking lots and roads

Awareness:
- Study the Chesapeake Bay
- Go on a Chesapeake Bay Foundation field experience
- Read about the Chesapeake Bay
- Ask your teacher about your local watershed
- Get involved with your local watershed group

And most importantly…. Install some RainScapes!

For more information, visit RainScapes.org and click on RainScapes for Schools under Related Links.

This document was modified from The Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Schoolyard Report Card, which can be found at CBF.org. Bay Health Indicator graphics are from CBF.org.