

Decarbonizing Public Schools Program (FY24)



Maryland
Energy
Administration

Program Description & Goals

- Maryland law requires school districts to adopt (or update) an energy policy and is encouraged to set renewable energy and emissions reduction targets
- Program builds capacity for managing school energy data to reduce costs and inform capital planning decisions
- Enhance energy efficiency in schools, reduce operating costs, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions across districts
- Construct Net-Zero Energy Schools across the state

What is a NZE School?

- NZE Schools are designed to balance their energy consumption with the amount of energy produced on-site over the course of a year
- NZE schools incorporate:
 - Energy Efficient Design and Equipment
 - Sustainable Operations
 - Energy from Renewable Resources



Funding Areas of Interest

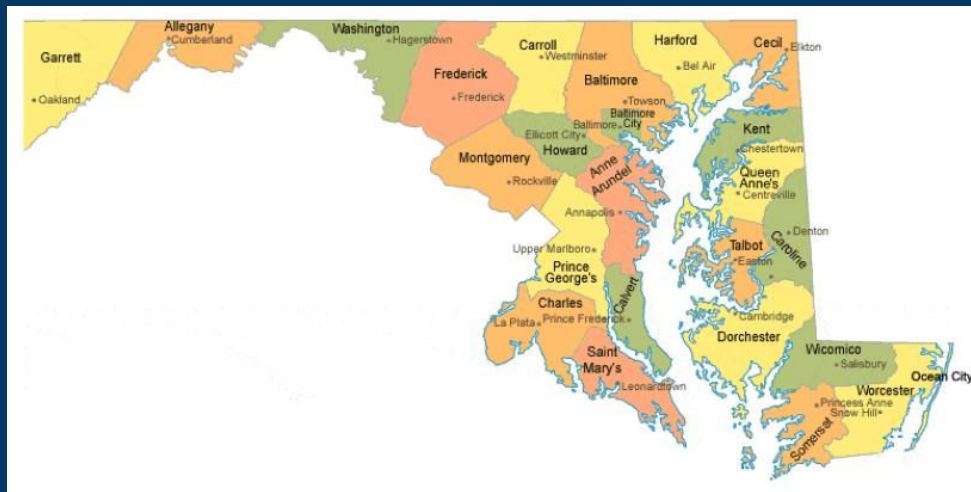
AOI 1: Capacity Building for Energy Management and Net Zero Energy Planning

AOI 2: Energy Efficiency Capital

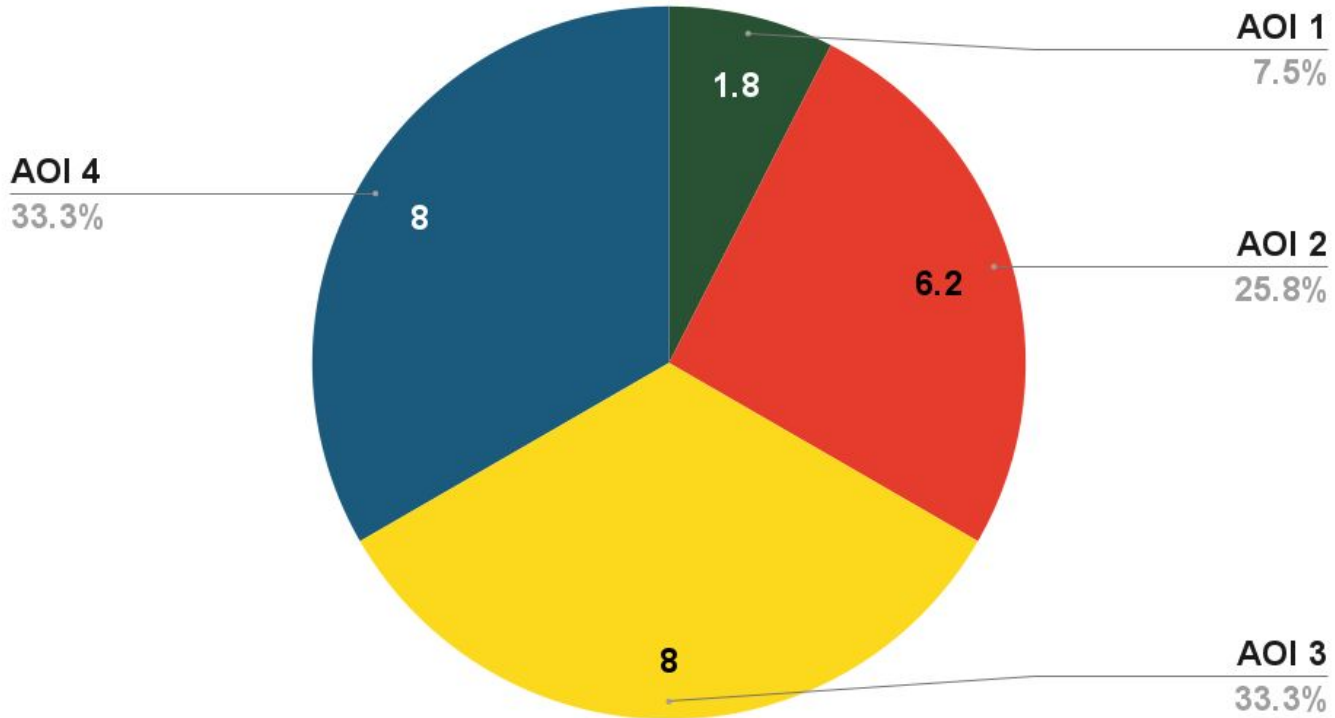
AOI 3: Solar for Existing Schools

AOI 4: Net Zero Schools Implementation Program

Deadline: March 15, 2024



FY 24 Schools Decarbonization Program AOI Funding (Millions of Dollars)



Exclusions from Funding

- Projects that expand the use of fossil fuel or natural gas technologies.
- Expansion of infrastructure increasing fossil fuel delivery volume.
- New installations of fossil fuel or natural gas-fired technologies.

Limited Exemptions

- No technically feasible zero-emission alternatives exist
- Projects must demonstrate infeasibility of electrified or other zero-emission options, not solely based on cost.

AOI 1: Capacity Building for Energy Management and Net Zero Energy Planning

Competitive formula grants

Category 1: Energy Data Management Support

- 1 year of funding for technical support to build LEA's capacity for energy data analytics
 - Establish or expand the use of Portfolio Manager Accounts

Category 2: Implement NZE elements into LEA's facility construction and renovation

- Identify NZE opportunities on a portfolio scale
 - Grants can be used to cover the costs of consultative services or additional LEA staff for tasks specific to the integration of portfolio-wide NZE considerations into the LEA's EFMP

AOI 2: Energy Efficiency Capital

- *Competitive statewide grants*
- Funds for energy efficiency upgrades and repairs to school buildings
- Reduce operating costs, insert energy efficient equipment into buildings and classrooms, and decrease GHG Emissions
 - Upgrades for mechanical and electrical components
 - Lights
 - HVAC
 - Controls
 - Boilers
 - Building Envelope
- Incremental Costs of New Construction - project must be designed to improve efficiency above the levels required by the most current version of the energy code in Maryland



Projects that include fossil-fuel or other combustion technologies that produce greenhouse gas emissions are typically not eligible for funding.

AOI 3: Solar on Schools

- *First come, first served competitive*
- Solar arrays to reduce emissions
 - Roof, Ground Mounted, and Canopy
- Funds restricted to census-tracts of Maryland that meet specific criteria set by the Maryland Department of the Environment.
 - Census-tracts must be either low-income or disadvantaged and overburdened.
- Competitive Criteria: Engagement Plan demonstrating how students, staff, and faculty are involved with the project



AOI 4: NZE Schools

- *Competitive - statewide*
- Funds design, construction, commissioning costs
- Seeking projects to break ground by 2026
- Prioritizes energy and emissions reductions
- Emphasizes benefits for disadvantaged communities
- Requires modeling of energy use intensity
- Activities through 2030 to align with construction



FY24 Schools Decarbonization Program

Save the Dates!

Drop-in Hours

Friday January 26, 1-2 PM

Tuesday February 13, 9-10 AM

Thursday March 7, 3-4 PM

Energy.Maryland.gov

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