LIVE GREEN CARD #3:
Green Schools

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- Turn off all the lights and electronics when not in use
- Keep exterior doors closed when the AC or heat is on to avoid wasting energy
- Implement a recycling program
- Use reusable trays at lunch as opposed to disposable foam trays
- Communicate via emails rather than paper memos
- Recycle and donate old technology (computers, etc.)
- Use nontoxic cleaning supplies
- Use recycled paper
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Open the windows rather than use the AC
- Use natural light whenever possible
- Utilize online and computerized study tools that don't use paper (such as PowerPoint)

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- Use reusable lunch bags, containers, and utensils
- For those buying lunches, try to use either reusable silverware or biodegradable utensils
- Start a compost pile for food waste
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Install faucet aerators
- Encourage school to buy lunch food from local farmers or plant an organic vegetable garden at your school

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- Install solar panels and learn the science behind alternative energy
- Educate students on the importance of environmental stewardship
- Apply for grants for educational gardens and renewable energies
- Become a certified green school! Explore other certified schools' websites to get more ideas.
- Explore certification websites such as: http://www.greenschools.net/ Or http://www.gogreeninitiative.org
- For assistance with certification in Howard County, contact the Howard County Conservancy: hcconservancy@hcconservancy.org and the Maryland Organization for Environmental and Outdoor Education: greenschools@maeoe.org

The amount of materials and energy needed to run a school is enormous and takes a great toll on our environment. To reduce the impact schools have on the environment and to form a better understanding of environmental issues, consider utilizing these tips.