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TO	Chairwoman Porter, Public Health & Environment Committee
FROM	Matthew Garbark, Director, Department of Public Works
DATE	April 8, 2026
SUBJECT	LO25-0017 Investigative Hearing – Zero Waste Committee Request #5
REQUEST TOPIC	Which schools are involved in educating the public? What would it look like in terms of staff for an ideal program for same?

Background

At the second convening of the Zero Waste hearings, Councilman Torrence spoke about educating the community on recycling and the proper use of receptacles noting the lack of educators in schools and “on the ground” to teach and spread awareness. Councilman Torrence requested a list of the schools currently involved in educating the public and the current staffing levels at those schools. He also requested that DPW provide the staffing needs for an ideal program.

Response

DPW’s Eco-Warriors of the Future Schools Competition maintains the capacity to deliver educational resources, programming, and engagement opportunities to all K–12 schools across Baltimore City. The program directly engages 90 schools annually, while allowing open access for broader citywide participation. Programming includes classroom instruction, experiential learning, tours, and speaker engagements. Staffing includes Keita S. Wells, Program Manager, who provides strategic leadership, planning, and oversight, and Cereta Spencer, who implements programming and manages volunteer engagement. This team collaborates with DPW staff, partner agencies, and external stakeholders to ensure effective delivery and alignment with priorities. Ideal staffing includes an Education Coordinator to strengthen school-based implementation, curriculum coordination, as well as a Data Coach to lead data collection, and reporting to measure impact and behavioral change.

[2025-2026 Eco-Warriors Participating Schools List.pdf](#)