



# MARYLAND EXCELS

## Eco-Friendly Achievement

Early Education and School-Age programs become greater community partners when children, staff, and families are encouraged to become good citizens and protectors of the earth in an eco-friendly environment.

Early care and education programs that incorporate eco-friendly practices within the daily operation may earn the Eco-Friendly Achievement. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Additional Achievements.

### Step 1: Decide your course of action.

Does your program have one of the following recognized certifications?

- Children's Environmental Health Network - Eco-Healthy Child Care <http://www.cehn.org/ehcc>
- Maryland Green Schools <http://maeoe.org/green-schools>
- National Arbor Foundation - Nature Explore Program <http://www.natureexplore.org/classrooms/>
- National Wildlife Federation - Eco-School Program <http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School.aspx>

Yes

Go to  
Step 3.

No

Go to  
Step 2.

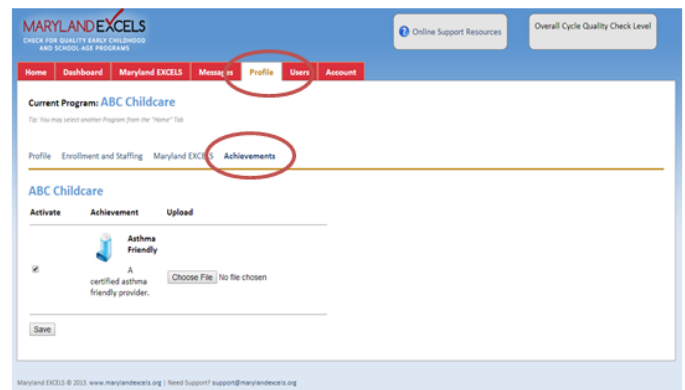
## Step 2: Review the options below and select the one that is best for your program.

Awarding Agency	Web Link	Cost*	Recognition*	Length of Award*	Some Considerations*
Children's Environmental Health Network - "Eco-Healthy Child Care"	<a href="http://www.cehn.org/ehcc">http://www.cehn.org/ehcc</a>	\$25 (1-20 children) \$50 (21+ children)	Certificate, and publication on CEHN website	2 years	Must comply with at least 24 of 30 items, including several required items
Maryland Green Schools	<a href="http://maeoe.org/green-schools/">http://maeoe.org/green-schools/</a>	Contact Maryland Green Schools	Publication on website	4 years	Most ideal for programs located in public school facilities (public pre-k and school age programs)
National Arbor Foundation – "Nature Explore" Program	<a href="http://www.natureexplore.org/classrooms/">http://www.natureexplore.org/classrooms/</a>	\$50, One-time fee	Certificate and publication on Nature Explore website	Need to recertify annually (No extra charge).	At least one staff member must attend a 3-hour Nature Explore Workshop; Requires Media Agreement
National Wildlife Federation – "Eco-School Program"	<a href="http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School.aspx">http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School.aspx</a>	Free	Bronze Award Silver Award Green Flag Award	Bronze and Silver Awards valid for 1 year  Green Flag Award valid for 2 years	Must complete 7 steps and incorporate 1 or more environmental pathways

\* Supplemental guidance is listed here for informational purposes only. It is highly recommended that participants review each of the options above, explore the most recent requirements of each organization, and decide which is best for the individual program.

## Step 3: Upload your certificate and statement.

To upload documentation showing certification by one of the above agencies, select the "Profile" tab and then click "Achievements." To upload a document, click "Choose a file." After selecting the proper file on your computer, click "Save." Use the messaging system to alert your Program Coordinator if you are participating in any of these programs. Your Program Coordinator will review any documentation that is uploaded.



## Additional Resources and Information on Eco-Friendly Early Care and School Age Programs:

Regardless of which option your program may select, each of the agencies above has a website that includes a variety of resources for programs with an interest in providing an eco-friendly environment. In addition, you may also find these links helpful:

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation: <http://www.cbf.org/>
- Environment Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/>
- Go Green Rating Scale for Early Childhood Settings: <http://www.gogreenratingscale.org/pages/faqs.html>
- Green School Initiative: <http://www.greenschools.net/links.php>
- Maryland Department of the Environment: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/Pages/Home.aspx>