



Maryland  
Green Registry  
**MEMBER**

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# Alice Ferguson Foundation



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[www.fergusonfoundation.org](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org)

Nonprofit environmental education organization  
Member since May 2018

## Management and Leadership



### **Environmental Team**

*Our mission is to inspire environmental stewardship by giving people the tools to understand, appreciate, and protect nature.*

*The Facilities Team monitors the green buildings for electrical consumption and water usage and staff using the buildings make every effort to keep use at a minimum. All lights are on motion sensors and turn off shortly after people leave each room. There are monthly staff meetings where any concerns or triumphs are brought up and discussed. There is one person on the staff who checks the electronic records of what is going on in the buildings and can detect issues using them and using data loggers to monitor others.*



### **Annual Environmental Goals**

*The Alice Ferguson Foundation set a goal to meet all of the tenets for full certification for The Living Building Challenge with its most recent building, the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Environmental Center. By December 2016, the building had met that goal and was the 13<sup>th</sup> building in the world to have that distinction.*

*Our annual goal is to have net positive energy usage in the building, year after year. As our building ages, we are striving to have seasonal net positive energy in the sunniest seasons. We are assessing the systems of the building to update to the most current technology to support our commitment to a reduced*

*energy footprint. A lighting audit was completed to ensure that the building was utilizing the most energy efficient lighting. Based on the audit, we replaced all of the lighting to LED efficient lighting in 2023.*

**Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*The Alice Ferguson Foundation has spearheaded the Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup since 1989. In more than 30 years, the Potomac Cleanup has engaged more than 175,000 volunteers and 500 community partners, and prevented more than 8 million pounds of trash from entering the Potomac River.*

*Alice Ferguson Foundation's trash program provides opportunities for students and adults to practice community leadership by organizing and leading their own waste-reduction and awareness raising action. For students, this program focuses on completing action projects around their school, neighborhood, community, or nearby stream, while adult volunteers are provided with ample resources to participate and lead cleanups in the communities in which they live and work.*

## Waste

**Recycling**

*Regularly recycled materials are picked up and handled by Prince George's County and sorted at their facility in Upper Marlboro, MD.*

**Composting**

*Food waste generated on-site is composted and used in our educational Children's Garden as soil amendments. Other food waste is fed directly to the animals on our farm.*

## Energy

**Energy Efficiency**

*The Alice Ferguson Foundation's Living Building has a super-insulated shell (roof R- rating and walls R- rating, in addition to solar and geothermal energy, making this one of the most efficient buildings in the world. Ground source heat pumps are tied into the geothermal system for heating and cooling. The bunkhouses also have super-efficient 'skins.' LED lighting is used extensively in and around the buildings and along the pathways and parking areas. Lights are placed on timers and many have motion sensors.*

**Renewable Energy**

*South-facing solar panels and windows maximize the harvest of the sun's renewable energy. Geothermal wells tucked beneath the nearby meadow capture stored energy in the earth's crust and, along with the building's super-insulated shell, make this one of the most energy efficient buildings in the world.*

## Transportation

**Employee Commute/Customer Travel**

*Our flexible remote work policy encourages employees to work remotely multiple days per week, reducing the need for daily commutes and thereby conserving vehicle miles. This initiative aligns with our commitment to sustainability and contributes to a more eco-friendly workplace.*

## Water

**Water Conservation**

*An underground well meets the water supply needs for use at Alice Ferguson Foundation's educational campus. Graywater from sinks and showers is captured and filters through the soil layers. Cisterns capture rainwater that has fallen on the roofs of the two bunkhouses and is used in the educational Children's Garden.*

**Stormwater Management and Site Design**

*Stormwater runoff is filtered and cleaned by carefully selected native plants in bioswales and six rain gardens and then absorbed into the ground so water speed and volume don't create erosion and sedimentation. Two 1,050-gallon cisterns collect the water from our bunkhouses. The water is used in the Children's Garden.*

*For the 2023-2024 year, the Foundation has been awarded a grant through the Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program. The program funds projects that improve communities and water quality through the engagement of County residents. The Foundation is working with businesses and organizations in Accokeek and Fort Washington to encourage environmental stewardship in the community. This effort includes litter cleanups, interactive educational presentations, and policy advocacy events.*

## Green Building

### LEED/Living Building Challenge

*Alice Ferguson Foundation's Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Environmental Center received Living Building Challenge (LBC) Full Certification – the 13<sup>th</sup> such building in the world. The LBC certification was audited and vetted by the International Living Future Institute.*

*Among the historically significant buildings at Alice Ferguson Foundation's Hard Bargain Farm is our state-of-the-art environmental center completed in 2016 as only the 13th project in the world to achieve the prestigious full Living Building Certification as well as the LEED Platinum Certification, audited and vetted by the International Living Future Institute. The certification means that our building meets net-zero energy, water, and carbon neutral requirements as well as being fully constructed of non-toxic components. The same building also received the highest-rated Platinum rating for LEED New Construction commercial buildings in the State of Maryland.*

*Included in the environmental center complex at Hard Bargain Farm are our bunkhouses built for visiting classes to stay in on overnight field trips as well as our brand-new educational pavilion, also built to green, net-zero standards and providing students the opportunity to learn in a living classroom environment.*

*The Foundation is committed to inclusivity and providing access to nature for all community members. Because of this, the boardwalk spanning our wet meadow, our bunkhouses, environmental center (Living Building), and our educational pavilion are all built to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.*

## Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

*In November 2019, the Foundation was named the recipient of the Waste Diversion and Recycling Award presented by Prince George's County Department of the Environment and Keep Prince George's County Beautiful.*

*In 2023, our environmental campus was named a 2023 Maryland Green Center recipient through the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Green centers are recognized for implementing environmental education programs, best management practices, and community engagement. Centers also support schools working towards achieving Maryland*

*Green Schools status. The Alice Ferguson Foundation is proud to be one of 45 Green Centers throughout the state of Maryland.*



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***Profile Updated January 2024***



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](https://green.maryland.gov)*

