 Albemarle County Public Schools			Subject: School Events SOP		
Document No.: SOP-EVE-01	Issue Date: 05-23-2013	Last Revised: 04-29-2013	Page: 1 of 2	Prepared By: LCS	Approved By: JD, JPL, GS, JT

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide information for environmentally responsible events at schools. Events can include PTO/PTA events, community day activities, Day of Caring activities, etc. This procedure is intended to be implemented as part of the Division’s Environmental Management Policy (EBAC adopted on January 26, 2006).

2.0 PROCEDURES

A. Composting and Recycling

Commercial composting can be provided for school events to collect organic waste and soiled paper products. Commercial composting allows for collection of these materials in rolling totes, which are picked up and taken to an off-site location for composting.¹ Coordinate collection with Environmental Compliance Manager at Building Services.

Materials in school dumpsters are sorted at a mixed waste materials recovery facility where recyclable materials are recovered from the waste stream. Recyclable materials include glass, plastics (#1-#7), metals, cardboard, paper, and wood.

B. Balloon Releases

In Virginia, it is against the law to launch fifty or more balloons.² The Division finds balloon releases of any amount to be in conflict with the Environmental Management Policy, which commits to instituting pollution prevention initiatives where practicable and feasible. Releasing balloons into the environment is littering and can potentially cause harm to animals. Some alternatives to balloon releases include tree plantings, bubbles, and paper airplanes. Virginia Clean Waterways is currently conducting a 2-year study on balloon litter.^{3,4}


¹ <http://www.blackbearcomposting.com/>

² § 29.1-556.1. Release of certain balloons prohibited; civil penalty.

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly release or cause to be released into the atmosphere within a one-hour period fifty or more balloons which are (i) made of a nonbiodegradable or nonphotodegradable material or any material which requires more than five minutes' contact with air or water to degrade and (ii) inflated with a substance which is lighter than air. Any person who violates this section shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five dollars per balloon released above the allowable limit, which shall be paid into the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Endowment Fund established pursuant to § 29.1-101.1. <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+29.1-556.1>

³ <https://sites.google.com/site/viriniaballoonestudy/home>

⁴ <http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/balloonresearch.htm>

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C. Landscaping

No pesticides or herbicides can be used by school staff or volunteers on school properties. Only registered technicians and commercial applicators, certified through Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, can use pesticides and herbicides on school grounds. Pesticide and herbicide usage is governed by the Division’s Safer Chemical Management SOP and Integrated Pest Management SOP.

D. Volunteer Construction Projects

If any volunteer projects include alterations of any part of the school building, the Environmental Compliance Manager must be consulted to ensure no environmental hazards will be created (e.g., asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint).