



SERT Spotlight

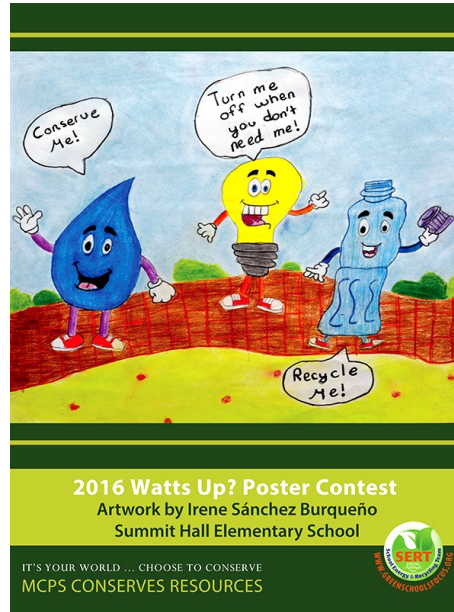
School Energy and Recycling Team

FEBRUARY 2017

Get ready for our annual **WATTS UP?** poster contest

2017 THEME: **SERT in Our School**
DEADLINE: **April 17, 2017**

MCPS students and staff members are encouraged to showcase their school's efforts in energy/water conservation and recycling while emphasizing the importance of resource conservation. See page 2 for contest rules.



IN THIS ISSUE:

STUDENTS & STAFF

The annual [WATTS UP?](#) contest is always a favorite amongst students and staff systemwide. Make sure to get all of those wonderfully creative entries submitted before Tax Day!

ENERGY

SERT awards have been granted to [94 schools](#) that made significant efforts to save energy during the first quarter of this school year.

Remember to submit your [shutdown checklist](#) for the long President's Day weekend.

RECYCLING

Ever wonder what those numbers inside the recycling symbol mean? Learn about the various plastics, and [what they become](#) after being recycled.

TEAM ACTIVITIES

Several earth-conscious dates and events will take place during the second half of the school year that offer great opportunities for your SERT teams to shine!

Energy is one of the most important environmental issue of our time. All environmental issues are related to energy – air or water quality, global climate changes, waste management, and transportation. With 80% of all pollution coming from producing, consuming and distributing energy, we should be incentivized to cut energy waste. This is your chance to show other Montgomery County Public Schools students how to use less energy and make wise energy choices.



Recycling our paper, glass, aluminum and plastic is an easy yet effective way to make a great impact on the earth. When we make a conscientious effort to shop with reusable grocery bags, drink from reusable containers, print on both sides of paper, reuse plastic containers, share hand-me-downs, etc. As you live responsibly, people around you will notice, and begin to follow your lead. Share your ideas and encourage others to reduce waste and increase recycling to make MCPS a greener place to learn.



Water, water, everywhere. Turn it off to show you care! When we think about the many ways we use water on a daily basis, it's easy to think of ways to conserve. We can take shorter showers and turn off the water while brushing our teeth or washing our hands and dishes. We can water lawns in the mornings/evenings instead of midday. And we can make sure that none of our faucets or toilets are leaking. One leaking faucet dripping at the rate of one drop per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year! Simple water conservation solutions will make a great difference.



SERT ENERGY AWARD



WATTS UP? *contest rules*

First Quarter Energy Awards

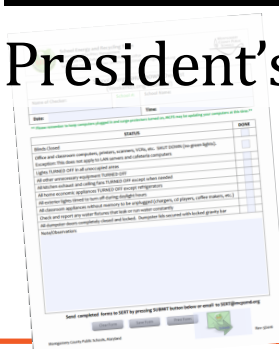
The SERT program is proud to announce the winners of the 2016–2017 First Quarter Energy Award. We applaud all of our students and staff for their commitment to conservation and sustainability.

Congratulations to the following 94 schools:

- 1 Posters must encourage others to conserve energy and water, and to recycle responsibly.
- 2 All MCPS elementary, middle and high school students and staff are eligible to enter the contest.
- 3 One entry per grade level per school will be accepted. Please hold preliminary competitions and submit the best entries to SERT.
- 4 Posters must not exceed 18" x 24" in size.
- 5 Entries must be the student's or staff's original work, and it must be work they have created alone. Group projects are not acceptable.
- 6 All entries must be accompanied by the official 2017 poster contest [entry form](#). Student's forms must be signed by their parent/guardian and their sponsoring teacher. All entries must be submitted via PONY, hand, or other delivery service on or before April 17, 2017 to: SERT Watts Up? Contest
Dept. of Facilities Management
Mont. County Public Schools
45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 4000
Rockville, MD 20850
- 7 Upon submission, entries become property of MCPS. Artwork and artist information may be used by MCPS and/or Montgomery County Government in public awareness campaigns.
- 8 Contest winners will be announced before the school year ends.

Argyle MS	Jackson Road ES	Ridgeview MS
John T. Baker MS	Jones Lane ES	Rock Creek Forest ES
Benjamin Banneker MS	Kemp Mill ES	Lois P. Rockwell ES
Lucy V. Barnsley ES	Kensington Parkwood ES	Rocky Hill MS
Beall ES	Francis Scott Key MS	Rosemary Hills ES
Bel Pre ES	Lake Seneca ES	Carl Sandburg Learning Ctr.
Belmont ES	Lakelands Park MS	Seneca Valley HS
Bethesda ES	Lakewood ES	Sherwood HS
James Hubert Blake HS	Col. E. Brooke Lee MS	Silver Spring Int'l MS
Bradley Hills ES	JoAnn Leleck ES	Flora M. Singer ES
Burning Tree ES	Little Bennett ES	Sligo Creek ES
Cabin John MS	Col. Zadok Magruder HS	Sligo MS
Cannon Road ES	Spark M. Matsunaga ES	Somerset ES
Rachel Carson ES	Ronald McNair ES	Springbrook HS
Cashell ES	Monocacy ES	Strathmore ES
Cedar Grove ES	Montgomery Knolls ES	Summit Hall ES
Clarksburg ES	Montgomery Village MS	Travilah ES
Clarksburg HS	Neelsville MS	Twinbrook ES
College Gardens ES	North Chevy Chase ES	Washington Grove ES
Capt. James Daly ES	Northwest HS	Watkins Mill ES
Damascus HS	Oakland Terrace ES	Wayside ES
Darnestown ES	Olney ES	Weller Road ES
Diamond ES	William Tyler Page ES	Hallie Wells MS
East Silver Spring ES	Pine Crest ES	Westland MS
Robert Frost MS	Piney Branch ES	Westover ES
Garrett Park ES	John Poole MS	Wheaton Woods ES
Georgian Forest ES	Poolesville HS	Walt Whitman HS
Glen Haven ES	Potomac ES	Wilson Wims ES
Goshen ES	Quince Orchard HS	Earle B. Wood MS
Great Seneca Creek ES	Redland MS	Woodlin ES
Greenwood ES	Judith A. Resnik ES	Thomas S. Wootton HS
Herbert Hoover MS		

President's Day Weekend Shutdown



Get ready for the first long weekend shutdown of the second semester! Please remember to go through the [shutdown checklist](#) carefully before leaving the building on Friday, February 17th, then submit it to SERT to ensure that your school gets credit for your energy-conservation efforts.



WHEN YOU LOOK INTO A FULL COMMINGLED RECYCLING BIN,

you will find a wide variety of plastic containers, made from a variety of different plastics. Each type of plastic has been used for a specific reason. For example, High-density Polyethylene (HDPE) is extremely strong and it is resistant to many different solvents, so HDPE items are perfect for holding industrial cleansers. Polypropylene (PP), the world’s second most widely produced plastic, is normally tough, flexible and resistant to heat so it’s a great choice for food containers and medical or laboratory use. Plastic is everywhere, and it makes our lives much easier.

There is, however, a downside to plastic. Regardless of the type, items made from plastic have a lifespan of at least 500 years. Every plastic bottle and margarine tub that you’ve ever touched is still “living” somewhere on the earth—either in it’s original form or living a new “life” as a recycled item. That’s why recycling plastic is so important.

Every plastic container or bottle has a [universal recycling symbol](#) that consists of a Möbius triangle formed by three “chasing” arrows with a number in the middle. That number, ranging from 1 to 7, indicates the plastic type. While you may only look at the recycling symbol to make sure you’re not tossing any 6s into your recycling bin (*Did you know that [Montgomery County has banned the use of Polystyrene?](#)*), the numbers indicate the type plastic you are using, and where it might end up in its next phase of “life.”



CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRODUCT APPLICATIONS	PRODUCTS MADE WITH RECYCLED CONTENT
	PET Polyethylene	Bottles for soda, water, cooking oil, mouthwash and salad dressing; peanut butter jars	Cleaned, recycled, PET flakes and pellets are spun as fiber for carpet, fleece jackets, comforter fill, tote bags and more
	HDPE High-density Polyethylene	Bottles for milk, juice, hand soap, shower gel, household and industrial cleaners; containers for cosmetics; cereal box liners	Recycled into bottles for non-food items such as shampoo, laundry detergent and motor oil; plastic “lumber” for outdoor decking, fencing and picnic tables; pipes, floor tiles, buckets, crates, flower pots and recycling bins
	PVC Polyvinyl Chloride	Pipes, cables, furniture, plastic toys; shower curtains and tablecloths; shrink wrap; rigid packaging like blister packs and clamshells	Pipes, decking, fencing, paneling, gutters, carpet backing, floor tiles/mats, mud flaps, electrical boxes, cables, traffic cones, garden hose and loose-leaf binders
	LDPE Low-density Polyethylene	Bags for newspapers, bread, produce and frozen foods; squeezable bottles	Shipping envelopes, trash can liners, floor tile, paneling, furniture, compost bins, trash cans, plastic “lumber” for outdoor furniture
	PP Polypropylene	Prepackaged foods like yogurt and deli meat; bottle caps, margarine tubs	Car battery cases and cables, signal lights, brooms and brushes, ice scrapers, oil funnels, bicycle racks, garden rakes, storage bins, shipping pallets, trays
	PS Polystyrene	Styrofoam cups and containers, egg cartons, foam containers, plastic cutlery, most 1-time use items	Thermal insulation, thermometers, light switch plates, vents, desk trays, rulers, license plate frames, cameras, egg shell cartons, plastic moulding
	Other	Any other plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories such as melamine plates and cups.	Bottles and plastic “lumber” applications

SECOND SEMESTER DATES TO REMEMBER

February 17

President's Day Weekend [Shutdown](#)

March 20

Deadline for "[Lead by Example](#)" entries



March 20-26

[Fix a Leak Week](#)

March 22

[World Water Day](#)

March 25, 8:30-9:30 p.m.

[Earth Hour](#)



April 14

Spring Break [Shutdown](#)

April 17

Deadline for "[Watts Up?](#)" entries



April 22

[Earth Day](#)



May 26

Memorial Day Weekend [Shutdown](#)

June 23

Summer Break [Shutdown](#)

June 1-30

"[Got Paper?](#)" Contest



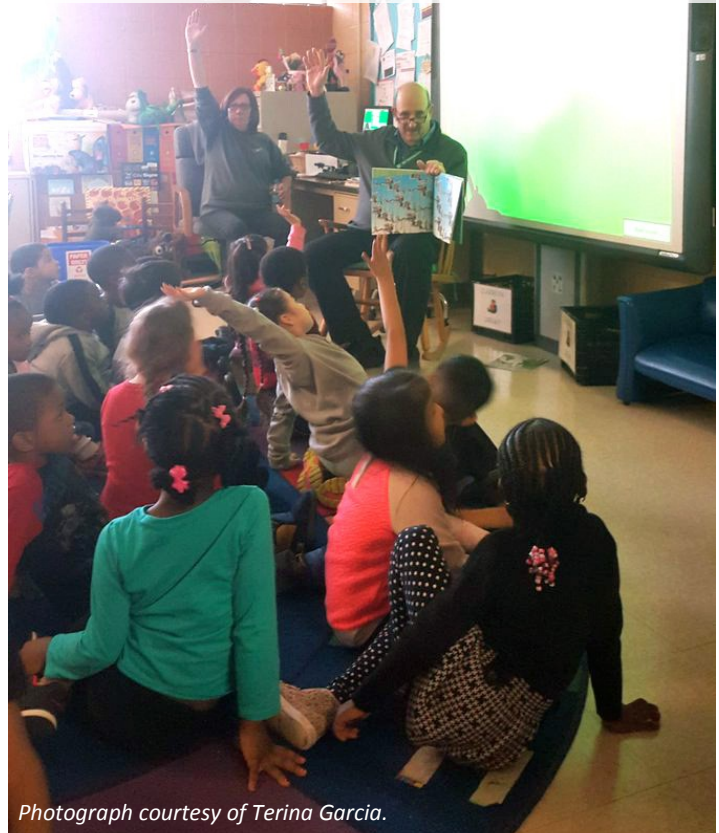
June-August

Peak Load Management ([PLM](#)) energy conservation period. Specific dates will be announced in the Spring.

SERT IN YOUR SCHOOL

"Who recycles? We do!" sang the Pre-K and PEP students of [Greencastle ES](#) as they participated in a recent read-aloud session held by SERT facilitators, Ms. Terina Garcia and Mr. Jim Stufft (pictured).

Submit an [Outreach Request](#) if you'd like our staff to visit your classroom to talk about energy and recycling.



Photograph courtesy of Terina Garcia.

This newsletter is produced by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program and distributed to SERT leaders, Green Teams, building service personnel, and others who are interested in conservation and sustainability. As part of the Montgomery County Public School Department of Facilities Management, the SERT program provides opportunities for all schools to participate and receive incentives and recognition for their energy conservation and recycling efforts. We support a balanced environment for the integration of all students to work together in a culturally diverse environment, and strive to provide the resources, support, and vision of the future for a successful conservation program at each school. Promoting the connections between human behavior and its impact on the environment reinforces our culture of conservation and increases participation in our mission to conserve resources and recycle actively.

THE SERT TEAM:

- [Richard Benjamin](#), program manager
- [Helen Blankfeld](#), information specialist
- [DJ Connelly](#), facilitator
- [Terina Garcia](#), facilitator
- [Linda McLaughlin](#), program technician
- [John Meyer](#), recycling manager
- [Jim Stufft](#), facilitator

