



SEPTEMBER 2017

# SERT Spotlight



## IN THIS ISSUE:

### SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

Welcome back to school! SERT staff is here to help you incorporate energy-saving and recycling into your regular routines.

### LET'S CONSERVE ENERGY

83 schools earned SERT energy awards during the third quarter of the 2016–2017 school year. If your school isn't on the list, contact SERT to learn what you can do to conserve and win!

### REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE

Sometimes the best way to conserve is by giving an object another life. This is what the *Drive for Supplies* campaign is all about. Find out who won this annual contest.

June is always a huge month for recycling because it's when we hold our *Got Paper?* contest. This year our schools recycled 633 tons of paper. Find out which six schools were winners.

### IT'S ALL ABOUT TEAMWORK

Our SERT program staff is ready to help you kick off the new school year with energy and recycling assemblies, read aloud events, and more.

The **SCHOOL ENERGY AND RECYCLING TEAM** (SERT) program staff hopes that you had a fantastic and safe summer break. Whether you took a memorable vacation, spent the summer working, or simply took some well-deserved “me time” for rest and relaxation, we trust that you've been rejuvenated and are now energized and ready to provide the very best education to our students.

Our SERT program staff had a very productive summer. We were busy preparing and updating program materials and resources, implementing the [Peak Load Management \(PLM\)](#) program, conducting school visits, and setting up the recycling infrastructure at one new and three revitalized/expanded schools in preparation for opening day.

As we begin another school year, we look forward to leveraging our successes from last school year and setting new goals to achieve even more great things this year. We encourage each person to make a commitment to environmental sustainability because together, we can achieve more.

We are excited to see you soon at your schools. As always, we are here to assist with your energy conservation and recycling participation programs. Remember, it's your world. Choose to conserve! 🌱

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## The SCHOOL ENERGY AND RECYCLING TEAM

(SERT) program has a wealth of resources and information available to schools. Make sure to visit our website often to find out more about how you can conserve energy and water, and ways to increase recycling participation at your school.

Our team is excited about the new school year and we're ready to serve you! Click on the icons for more details or on program staff names for direct email links.

## WATTS UP? POSTER CONTEST

All students are invited to create posters that showcase their school's efforts in energy/ water conservation and recycling. Selected winning entries are used in promotional campaigns by MCPS and local government.



## CONSERVATION POSTERS

Energy/water conservation and recycling posters are available on our website. Download and print them yourself or order beautiful full-size posters from us.



## LEAD BY EXAMPLE CAMPAIGN

All secondary schools are invited to participate in this effort to reinforce a culture of conservation and sustainability. Document your conservation practices and your school may be a winner!



## OUTREACH

Use the Outreach Request Form to invite SERT staff to your school for assemblies, "Let's Do Lunch" and "Read Aloud" activities, and other interesting and interactive demonstrations.



## RECYCLING RESOURCES

Check out our website to learn what can/can't be recycled, get helpful hints, and see how much your school recycles each month. Also view your school's recycling pick-up schedule. Order your recycling bins, posters and recycling bin labels via Maximo.



## SERT PROGRAM STAFF

- Richard Benjamin, program manager
- Helen Blankfeld, information specialist
- Donald "DJ" Connelly, facilitator
- Terina Garcia, facilitator
- Linda McLaughlin, program technician
- John Meyer, recycling manager
- Jim Stuftt, facilitator



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## SERT PROGRAM

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IT'S YOUR WORLD.  
CHOOSE TO CONSERVE!

# Maintain a Successful SERT Program in Your School

The **SCHOOL ENERGY AND RECYCLING TEAM (SERT)** program promotes environmental stewardship to conserve resources in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). SERT provides systemwide sustainability training and education, incentives and recognition, customized energy and recycling data, conservation operations and procedures, and interactive activities for students and staff to promote and increase awareness to conserve energy, water, and natural gas, and to increase recycling participation. Top performing schools are eligible to earn energy and recycling incentive awards and recognition.

Incorporating and maintaining a strong SERT program in your school not only helps us make our earth a better place to live but also teaches our students to be responsible environmental stewards.



## THE PRINCIPAL

- Appoints a SERT team leader for the school.
- Submits the completed and signed SERT Action Plan on or before September 15 of each year. *(This year's deadline has been extended to September 29.)*
- Supports and recognizes SERT team members for their conservation efforts.



## THE SCHOOL-BASED SERT LEADER

- Recruits team members within the school, including teachers, staff, building service personnel, and students to help facilitate a successful SERT program.
- Selects activities to increase student participation. Ideas can be found on the SERT website, [www.GreenSchoolsFocus.org](http://www.GreenSchoolsFocus.org).
- Plans and schedules SERT team meetings and activities.
- Seeks support from and collaborates with building service staff.
- Orchestrates after-school activities.
- Plans student outreach activities and field trips focusing on resource conservation.
- Includes the Parent Teacher Association and the community in the school-based SERT program.
- Promotes the SERT conservation and recycling contests/campaigns that are designed to raise awareness.



## THE SERT PROGRAM STAFF

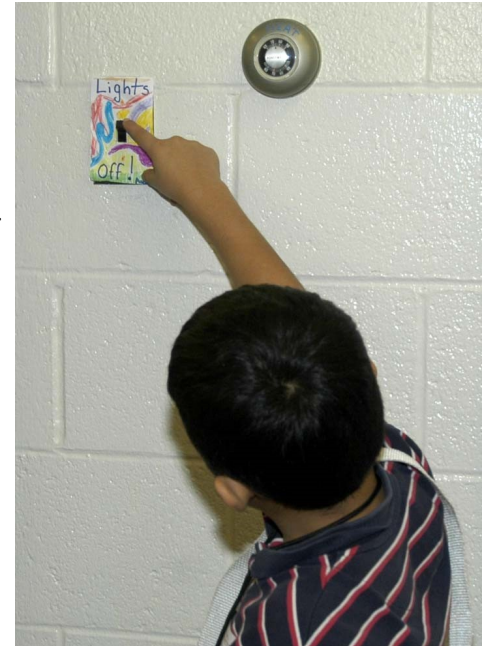
- Provides training and staff development.
- Assists in the implementation of conservation projects and investigational practices, and provides classroom support.
- Conducts energy and recycling assemblies, "Let's Do Lunch," read aloud events and other activities that raise conservation awareness.
- Meets with the school administration, SERT leaders, and team members throughout the year.
- Attends school-based SERT meetings when possible.
- Conducts temperature, electricity usage, and lighting studies.

# SERT Energy Awards

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MCPS)** that achieve top energy cost avoidance as compared to their baseline usage are eligible to receive quarterly monetary awards paid directly to the schools. The baseline for each school is an average energy use of their prior five school years of the same quarter. Schools without an established baseline are eligible to receive a monetary Great Energy Management (GEM) award, based on demonstrated active participation in the SERT program and energy-efficient behavior.

SERT is pleased to announce that our schools made significant efforts to save energy during the third quarter of the 2016–2017 academic year (March–May). During these challenging budgetary times, any avoidable operating costs will have a positive impact on our educational initiatives. MCPS was able to achieve nearly \$112,000 in energy cost avoidance for the quarter.

We applaud all of our students and staff for their commitment to conservation and sustainability and congratulate the following 83 schools that earned SERT energy awards for the third quarter:



*About one third of your school's energy costs can be attributed to lighting. Turn off the lights and enjoy huge savings!*

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Ashburton Elementary  
 Bel Pre Elementary  
 Bells Mill Elementary  
 Bradley Hills Elementary  
 Brooke Grove Elementary  
 Brookhaven Elementary  
 Brown Station Elementary  
 Burning Tree Elementary  
 Candlewood Elementary  
 Cedar Grove Elementary  
 Clopper Mill Elementary  
 Cold Spring Elementary  
 Cresthaven Elementary  
 Darnestown Elementary  
 Farmland Elementary  
 Flower Hill Elementary  
 Forest Knolls Elementary  
 Georgian Forest Elementary  
 Germantown Elementary  
 Glen Haven Elementary  
 Glenallan Elementary  
 Goshen Elementary  
 Great Seneca Creek Elem.  
 Highland View Elementary

Jackson Road Elementary  
 Lake Seneca Elementary  
 JoAnn Leleck Elementary  
 Little Bennett Elementary  
 Luxmanor Elementary  
 Maryvale Elementary  
 Ronald McNair Elementary  
 Mill Creek Towne Elem.  
 Monocacy Elementary  
 Oakland Terrace Elem.  
 Olney Elementary  
 Pine Crest Elementary  
 Piney Branch Elementary  
 Potomac Elementary  
 Judith Resnik Elementary  
 Ritchie Park Elementary  
 Rock Creek Forest Elem.  
 Sandburg Learning Center  
 Sequoyah Elementary  
 Flora Singer Elementary  
 Sligo Creek Elementary  
 Somerset Elementary  
 Strathmore Elementary  
 Strawberry Knoll Elem.  
 Summit Hall Elementary

Westbrook Elementary  
 Westover Elementary  
 Wheaton Woods Elem.  
 Woodfield Elementary

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Argyle Middle  
 John T. Baker Middle  
 Benjamin Banneker Middle  
 Eastern Middle  
 Forest Oak Middle  
 Robert Frost Middle  
 Francis Scott Key Middle  
 Dr. M. L. King Middle  
 Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle  
 Neelsville Middle  
 Newport Mill Middle  
 Rosa M. Parks Middle  
 Ridgeview Middle  
 Rocky Hill Middle  
 Silver Spring Int'l Middle  
 Sligo Middle  
 Takoma Park Middle  
 White Oak Middle

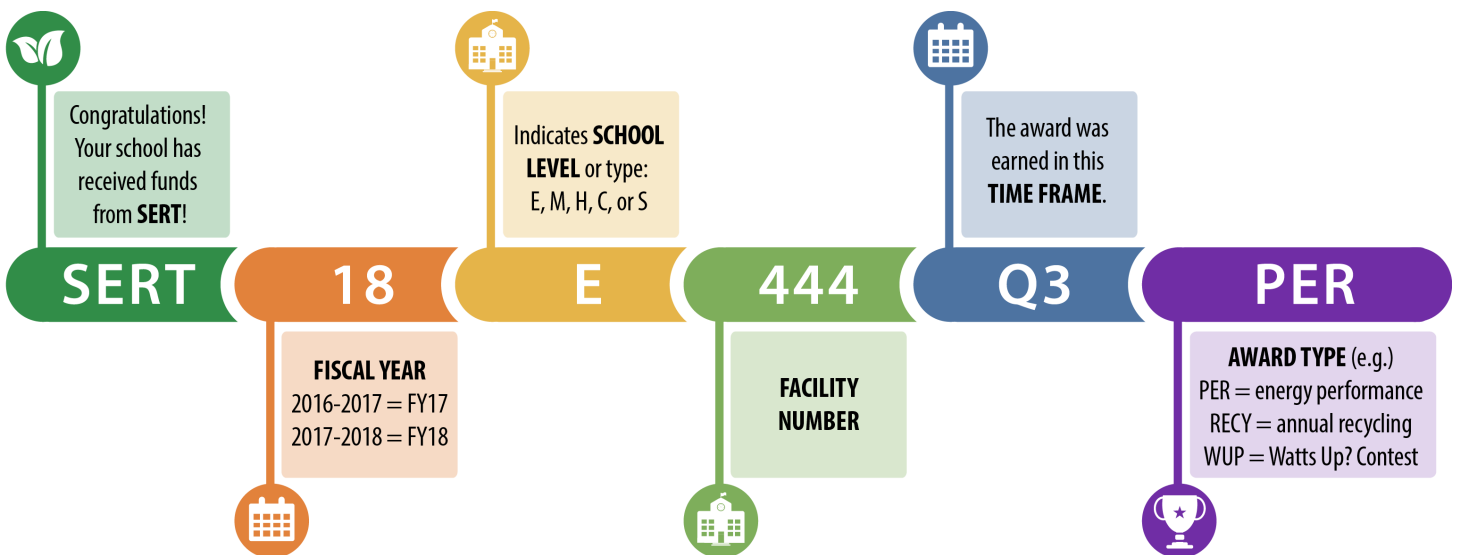
## HIGH SCHOOLS

Montgomery Blair High  
 James Hubert Blake High  
 Damascus High  
 Col. Zadok Magruder High  
 Northwest High  
 Paint Branch High  
 Poolesville High  
 Quince Orchard High  
 Rockville High  
 Springbrook High  
 Walt Whitman High  
 Thomas S. Wootton High

*If your school is not earning SERT energy awards each quarter, contact SERT to learn which energy-saving techniques may best benefit you. We're here to help!*

# SERT Has a New Invoice Numbering System

To make it easier for you to recognize SERT awards when reconciling your IAF account, we've changed our numbering system for invoices. From now on, we will transfer funds using the matrix shown below. If you have any questions about SERT award transfers, call SERT at 240-314-1090 or email [SERT@mcpsmd.org](mailto:SERT@mcpsmd.org).



## Second Semester Shoutouts

There were nine opportunities for schools to complete and submit SERT Shutdown Checklist forms during the 2016–2017 school year. Congratulations and thank you to seven schools for having a perfect submission record!

- ◆ Cloverly Elementary School
- ◆ Stephen Knolls School
- ◆ Matsunaga Elementary School
- ◆ Northwest High School
- ◆ William T. Page Elementary School
- ◆ Stone Mill Elementary School
- ◆ Woodfield Elementary School



There will be seven shutdown opportunities during the 2017–2018 school year. As always, we will email you a reminder to complete and submit your shutdown checklist prior to Thanksgiving break, winter break, MLK weekend, Presidents' Day weekend, spring break, Memorial Day weekend, and summer break.

This summer, energy waste issues at several schools were identified and successfully resolved throughout the Peak Load Management period. MCPS will benefit greatly from reduced energy costs during the upcoming year thanks to the collaboration and diligence of school-based staff, Energy Management Systems (EMS) personnel, the Energy Resources Team (ERT), and SERT program staff.



# Got Paper? Yes, we do!

SERT's 2017 *Got Paper?* contest was, as always, a great success. Our MCPS schools recycled a total of 633 tons of paper during the contest period of June 1-30. To put that tonnage into perspective, the weight of our recycled paper for the month is the equivalent of the weight of 42 full-size school buses filled with students!

SERT appreciates and acknowledges the conservation efforts of all of our participating schools and congratulates the following six schools for earning SERT recycling awards in the amount of \$1,000 (HS), \$750 (MS) and \$500 (ES):



Montgomery Blair High  
Parkland Middle  
Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary



Damascus High  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle  
Monocacy Elementary

## Drive for Supplies Reduces Waste, Reuses Goods

At the end of each school year, students and staff clean out lockers, desks, closets and classrooms. As they perform this task at many schools, new and gently used supplies are collected as part of the annual *Drive for Supplies* campaign. Notebooks, folders, crayons, glue, and many other items are carefully sorted by student volunteers and then donated to Montgomery County families in need.

Participating in the *Drive for Supplies* not only teaches our students the importance of helping those in need, but also reinforces the significance of recycling and reducing waste.

On July 17, the 18th annual *Drive for Supplies* campaign was celebrated at Richard Montgomery High School. Dr. Judith Docca, Vice President of the Board of Education; Dr. Jack R. Smith, MCPS Superintendent of Schools; and several other notable dignitaries attended and spoke at the event.



Since 2002, more than 91 tons of school supplies have been collected and donated through this campaign, which is co-sponsored by [Learn Shop, Inc.](#), a local nonprofit organization founded by Kevin and Louise Newcomer.

Congratulations to Cresthaven Elementary, Cabin John Middle and Albert Einstein High Schools for earning SERT awards and systemwide recognition by contributing the most school supplies in their school level. 🌱

# What You Can and Can't Recycle in MCPS

As we begin another school year, please take a moment to review the following list of items that can/can't be recycled in our county. MCPS recycles in accordance with Montgomery County's [recycling regulations](#) therefore, all the items that you recycle at your school can also be recycled at your Montgomery County home. The same rules apply to cleaning up after an instructional day in your classroom, lunch in the cafeteria, or a holiday party at home. All of your plain, "flat" paper and boxes can go into the mixed paper recycling bin while all the aluminum foil, foil serving trays, bottles, cans, and plastic containers should be placed in the commingled recycling bin. As you review this list, you may find a few more items that you can include in your recycling bins. Remember, the more we recycle, the less we throw away as trash.

## MIXED PAPER

### ACCEPTABLE PAPER ITEMS

- ✓ Empty milk and juice containers
- ✓ Lunch trays, paper boat trays, paper plates and cups
- ✓ Newspapers (with inserts)
- ✓ Magazines, catalogs, junk mail, and windowed envelopes
- ✓ Cardboard and paperboard boxes (including all cereal boxes without the liners, frozen food packaging, etc.)
- ✓ Corrugated cardboard (all boxes must be broken down)
- ✓ Spiral notebooks and composition books
- ✓ Colored paper, theme paper, and used copier paper
- ✓ Books (including paperbacks, textbooks, and hardbacks)
- ✓ Shredded paper contained in a sealed or tied clear plastic bag
- ✓ Non-metallic wrapping paper
- ✓ Paper bulletin board decorations
- ✓ Brown paper bags
- ✓ Telephone books
- ✓ Construction paper
- ✓ Files and folders
- ✓ Cardstock



### UNACCEPTABLE PAPER ITEMS

- ✗ Paper towels, tissues
- ✗ Any paper contaminated with food waste
- ✗ Food contaminated paper plates
- ✗ Food contaminated paper cups
- ✗ Metallic wrapping paper
- ✗ Laminated paper
- ✗ Loose, shredded paper, and plastic-coated paper



## COMMINGLED ITEMS

### ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC, BOTTLES, CANS

- ✓ Black plastic (PET Plastic #1) food containers
- ✓ Empty plastic milk, juice, and water bottles
- ✓ PET #1 Thermoform plastic packaging, such as clamshell containers, trays, deli containers, lids, and caps
- ✓ #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7 rigid plastic containers, including bottles, jugs, wide-mouth tubs, caps, salad and vegetable containers
- ✓ Aluminum food and beverage containers
- ✓ Bi-metal steel/tin cans, such as soup and vegetable cans
- ✓ Clean aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
- ✓ Glass containers: brown, clear, and green glass containers jars and bottles
- ✓ Empty non-hazardous aerosol cans
- ✓ Plastic buckets with metal handles (such as floor wax and stripper)
- ✓ Plastic flower pots
- ✓ Plastic drinking cups/glasses (stadium cups)
- ✓ Plastic 5-gallon water bottles

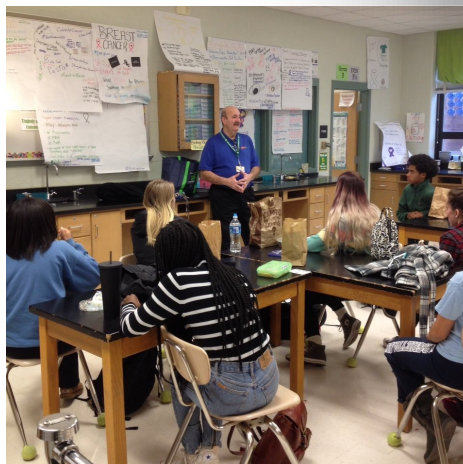
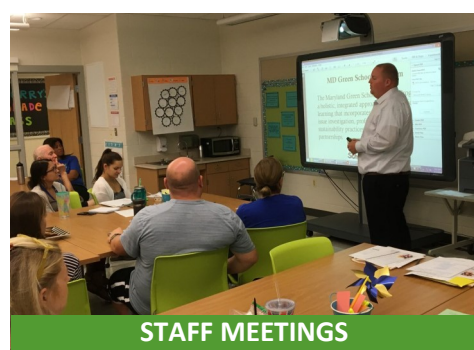
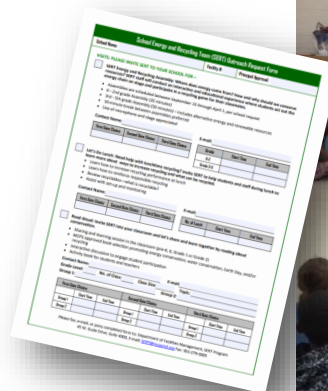
### UNACCEPTABLE PLASTIC, BOTTLES, CANS

- ✗ Styrofoam (cups, plates, bowls, to-go containers, and foam packing material of any kind)
- ✗ Materials contaminated with food waste or grease
- ✗ Trash/food waste
- ✗ Colored plastic film (such as candy and food wrappers or bags, colored plastic bags)
- ✗ Plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons)
- ✗ Non-container glass (cookware, plate glass, window glass)
- ✗ Motor oil, anti-freeze, and pesticide containers
- ✗ Ceramics
- ✗ Construction and demolition material
- ✗ Vinyl siding
- ✗ Wood

# Invite SERT to Your School

SERT staff is ready to assist you with your conservation and recycling efforts. Use our [Outreach Request](#) form to schedule an energy and recycling awareness assembly, where your students learn why conservation is important; “Let’s Do Lunch,” a lunchtime hands-on recycling training event; or have our program staff visit your classroom to read about conservation.

Our staff is also available to demonstrate how to use energy analysis tools to measure foot candles, temperature, and watts; and to help students understand how to conserve energy.



CLASSROOM READ ALOUDS

SCHOOL SERT TEAM MEETINGS

STAFF MEETINGS

## SERT Spotlight

This newsletter is produced by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program and distributed to SERT leaders, school-based SERT teams, building service personnel, and others who are interested in conservation and sustainability. As part of the [Montgomery County Public Schools](#) 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.

### SERT PROGRAM STAFF:

- [Richard Benjamin](#), program manager
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