



MAY 2018

SERT Spotlight

Your Vote Counts!

Our Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students and staff have submitted a lot of creative, interesting, and informative entries for the annual **Watts Up?** poster contest sponsored by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT). More than 150 entries were submitted and our SERT program staff has completed the initial round of judging. We considered entries based on the following criteria:

- Was the artwork accompanied by an official contest entry form, with appropriate signatures?
- Does the artwork demonstrate recycling and/or saving energy?
- Does the artwork relay a good message about the importance of conservation?
- Will we be able to reproduce the artwork without losing its beauty and/or message?

For the second round of judging, we're inviting all MCPS staff to help us pick the winning entries. Visit <https://goo.gl/forms/uaSM1bKkaBv80ml82> to judge via our online form. Please note that this activity is limited to MCPS staff. You must use your MCPS Google login in order to participate. The **Watts Up?** poll is open now, and will only remain open until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 21, 2018, so cast your vote today!

If you would like to see the entries and vote in person, you're welcome to stop by the Redwood Conference Room at 45 W. Gude Drive (4th floor) on Thursday, May 17, 2018. We will have the posters on display from 9:00-11:30 a.m. SERT staff will be delighted to see you and answer any questions you may have.

Winning posters will be on display at the Rockville Library during the month of June. More information about the [Watts Up? contest](#) can be found on our website.

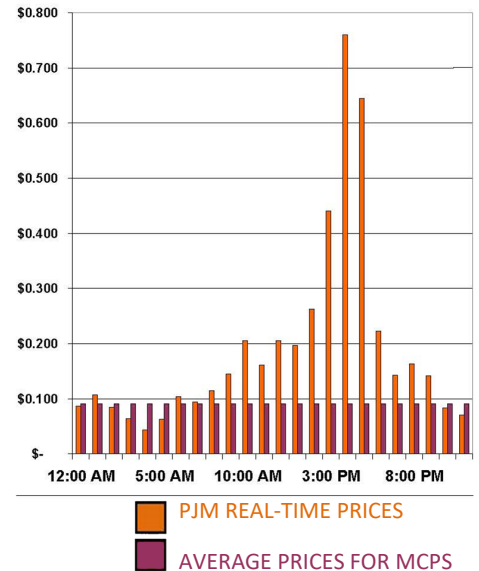


GET READY FOR PEAK LOAD MANAGEMENT



Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has instituted a late afternoon curtailment of air conditioning operations in schools each summer from 4:00–5:00 p.m. We call this PLM, or Peak Load Management. Why would we do this? The answer is simple: the energy we use during peak hours in the summer affects MCPS’ electricity costs year round! Because these peak summertime demand periods determine the price we pay for electricity for all 12 months of the year, conserving energy during the summer crucial.

The chart to the right reflects the increase in kilowatt hour pricing during the peak hours of 3:00–5:00 p.m. on a typical hot August afternoon. On this particular day, the electric demand approached, and briefly exceeded, the capacity of the power grid to generate and transmit electricity, resulting in a voltage reduction, or brown-out, to protect the system. At such times, the real-time price of electricity becomes very costly, rising from the normal \$0.10/kWh and spiking up to \$0.75/kWh. This is a clear signal to customers to shut down all non-essential uses of power.



Every day from June 19 through August 24, please be prepared for PLM.

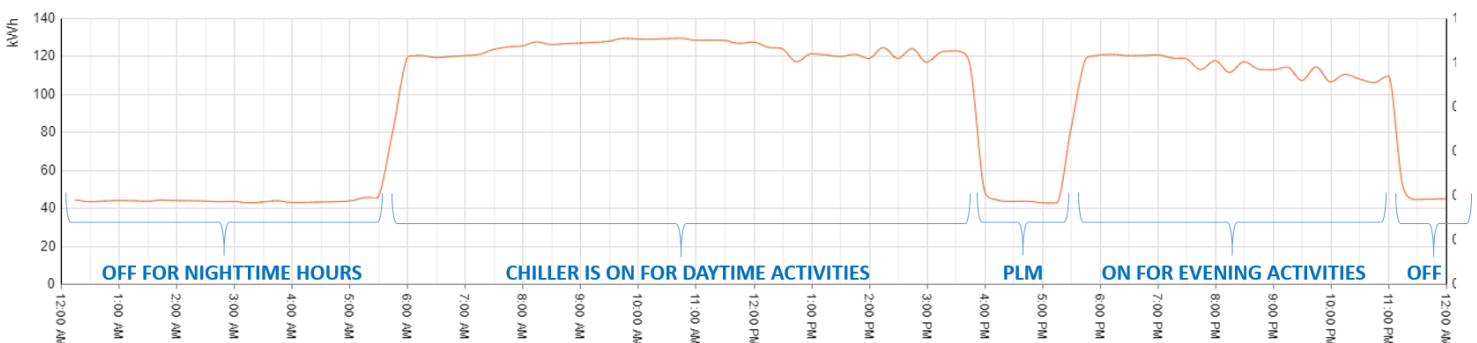
- Starting at 3:00 p.m., your staff should turn off all non-essential lights and equipment.
- From 4:00–5:00 p.m., each building’s central plant equipment is curtailed for one hour. The chart below shows energy use increase and decrease as the chiller comes on at 6:00 a.m., shuts down for PLM at 4:00 p.m., and comes back on for evening activities.
- You can help by not scheduling activities from 3:00–5:00 p.m. during the summer.

The shutdown process for chillers should begin at 3:45 p.m. Chillers should be off from 4:00-5:00 p.m. If the chiller is still on at 4:00 p.m., please call the [EMS Hotline at 301-252-3533](tel:301-252-3533).

Thank you for doing your part to help MCPS save on electricity costs while helping to preserve the environment.

Profile - Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Last updated: 11:14:38 AM



GOT PAPER?




CONTEST

With proper paper recycling, your school has a chance to win a SERT recycling reward for the annual **GOT PAPER?** contest. All MCPS elementary, middle and high schools are automatically qualified to participate in the contest which runs the entire month of June.

You don't need to do anything special — just recycle your paper products as normal! Our recycling hauler weighs the dumpsters when they're serviced and provides SERT with the data so there's no need for you to worry about weight. Just keep filling your dumpsters up with paper recyclables!

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING —

- Recycle all types of paper including spiral notebooks, composition books, magazines, colored paper, paper bulletin board decorations, theme paper, used copier paper, and flattened cardboard boxes.
- Place additional recycling bins in hallways, around lockers, and in classrooms to capture all recyclables.
- Place trash bins next to recycling bins to avoid contamination in the recycling bins.
- Empty recycling bins as frequently as needed.
- Make morning announcements reminding students and teachers to recycle.
- If your dumpsters are full, call Mr. John Meyer (240-277-3285) to request additional pick ups.
- Keep in mind that the scheduling of an extra pickup takes 24 hours. So don't wait until your dumpster is completely full!

REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

DETAILS

- The **GOT PAPER?** contest is open to all MCPS elementary, middle, and high schools.
- The contest runs from June 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.
- Only paper that has been properly recycled will be weighed and count toward your school's total.
- One elementary, middle, and high school with the greatest PPP will win.
- The winning schools will receive SERT awards in the following amounts:

\$1,000	high
\$750	middle
\$500	elementary
- Contest winners will be announced in August.
- Contest awards will be transferred directly into the building service supply accounts of the winning schools.
- If you have questions or concerns about recycling at your school, email Mr. John Meyer, recycling manager, at recycling@mcpsmd.org.

MAEOE YOUTH SUMMIT TO BE HELD MAY 31, 2018

“Changemakers Today for a Greener Tomorrow” is the theme of this year’s Youth Summit sponsored by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education ([MAEOE](#)). This exciting and informative event is held annually at Sandy Point State Park.

The 26 MCPS schools that have been recently certified/recertified as Green Schools will be recognized and celebrated during the summit. See our [May issue](#) of Spotlight for that story.

In addition to the awards ceremony, teachers and students from across the state have the opportunity to discover programs and resources for their schools through hands-on learning with local environmental education providers. There will be lots of nature-themed activities throughout the day as well as an environmental literacy fair.

For more information, visit [MAEOE’s website](#). Registration is required.



BATTERIES

TRASH vs. RECYCLING

Toss in the trash—

- Dry cell and alkaline batteries, most often found in flash lights, toys, and appliances

Recycle—

- Lithium and lithium-ion batteries
- Nickel-cadmium batteries
- Uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), personal and network
- Tool batteries
- Rechargeable batteries

You may send batteries for recycling to John Meyer at SERT via pony. If a battery is cracked or damaged, please seal it in a plastic bag.



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

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