



SERT Spotlight



FEBRUARY 2018

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WATTS UP?

We're excited to see what our talented students and staff come up with this year for the Watts Up? energy and recycling awareness poster contest. Maybe your artwork will be the next poster to promote conservation throughout MCPS!

ENERGY AWARD WINNERS

Ninety schools earned SERT awards for their efforts to save energy during the first quarter of this academic year. Did your school make the list?

VOLUNTARY RECYCLING

We're ending our "Closing the Gap" series with ways to enhance your school's recycling program. We're also giving shout-outs to schools that recycled remarkably well during the first quarter.



It's our favorite time of the year!

It's time to pull out the art supplies, put on our thinking caps, and start creating entries for the twelfth annual **Watts Up?** energy and recycling awareness poster contest sponsored by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program.

Each year, all Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students and staff are invited to participate in the poster contest that promotes energy conservation and active recycling. The **Watts Up?** contest engages our entire MCPS community in a creative competition that promotes the conservation messages taught in our curriculum. It also provides a large platform for our budding artists to showcase their amazing talents. As always, this year's contest is focused on two very important activities: conserving energy and recycling.

We all know that 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 contest gives you the chance to show other MCPS students how we all can use less energy and make wise energy choices.

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CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY WITH MONTGOMERY PARKS AND YOUR SCHOOL!

The Arbor Day Video Contest is open to third, fourth, and fifth grade students in Montgomery County and this year's theme highlights how trees are superheroes.

* Submissions must be received by March 29, 2018.



For more information and official rules visit: MontgomeryParks.org/Trees



Quarterly Energy Awards

THE SERT PROGRAM is pleased to announce that our schools made significant efforts to save energy during the first quarter (September–November) of the 2017–2018 academic year.

During these challenging budgetary times, any avoidable operating costs will have a positive impact on our educational initiatives. Montgomery County Public Schools was able to achieve \$74,910 in energy cost avoidance during the first quarter.

Schools achieving top energy cost avoidance as compared to their baseline usage are eligible to receive quarterly monetary awards. The baseline for each school is an average use of their prior five school years for the same quarter. Schools without an established baseline are eligible to receive a monetary Great Energy Management (GEM) award which is based on demonstrated active participation in the SERT program and energy-efficient behavior.



We applaud all of our students and staff for their commitment to conservation and sustainability and congratulate the following 62 elementary and 28 secondary schools for earning SERT energy awards during the first quarter:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Ashburton Elementary School
 Bannockburn Elementary School
 Bells Mill Elementary School
 Belmont Elementary School
 Bethesda Elementary School
 Brooke Grove Elementary School
 Brown Station Elementary School
 Burning Tree Elementary School
 Candlewood Elementary School
 Carderock Springs Elementary School
 Rachel Carson Elementary School
 Cashell Elementary School
 Cedar Grove Elementary School
 Chevy Chase Elementary School
 Clopper Mill Elementary School
 Cloverly Elementary School
 Cresthaven Elementary School
 Capt. James Daly Elementary School
 Damascus Elementary School
 Fairland Elementary School
 Flower Hill Elementary School
 Flower Valley Elementary School
 Forest Knolls Elementary School
 Galway Elementary School
 Georgian Forest Elementary School
 William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School
 Goshen Elementary School
 Great Seneca Creek Elementary School
 Greencastle Elementary School
 Highland View Elementary School
 Jackson Road Elementary School

Jones Lane Elementary School
 Kemp Mill Elementary School
 Lakewood Elementary School
 JoAnn Leleck Elementary School
 Little Bennett Elementary School
 Thurgood Marshall Elementary School
 Maryvale Elementary School
 Mill Creek Towne Elementary School
 Monocacy Elementary School
 North Chevy Chase Elementary School
 Oakland Terrace Elementary School
 Olney Elementary School
 William Tyler Page Elementary School
 Pine Crest Elementary School
 Piney Branch Elementary School
 Rock Creek Forest Elementary School
 Rosemont Elementary School
 Carl Sandburg Learning Center
 Seven Locks Elementary School
 Sherwood Elementary School
 Flora M. Singer Elementary School
 Sligo Creek Elementary School
 Somerset Elementary School
 Strathmore Elementary School
 Strawberry Knoll Elementary School
 Twinbrook Elementary School
 Viers Mill Elementary School
 Wayside Elementary School
 Weller Road Elementary School
 Westover Elementary School
 Wheaton Woods Elementary School

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Argyle Middle School
 Benjamin Banneker Middle School
 Forest Oak Middle School
 Robert Frost Middle School
 Francis Scott Key Middle School
 Dr. Martin Luther King Middle School
 Montgomery Village Middle School
 Neelsville Middle School
 John Poole Middle School
 Ridgeview Middle School
 Rocky Hill Middle School
 Silver Creek Middle School
 Silver Spring International Middle School
 Takoma Park Middle School
 White Oak Middle School

HIGH SCHOOLS

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
 Clarksburg High School
 Damascus High School
 Thomas Edison High School of Technology
 Walter Johnson High School
 Northwest High School
 Paint Branch High School
 Poolesville High School
 Rockville High School
 Seneca Valley High School
 Springbrook High School
 Watkins Mill High School
 Thomas S. Wootton High School

CLOSING the GAP

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING RECYCLING RATES

Over the past three issues, our **CLOSING the GAP** series has been highlighting ways that we can increase our recycling participation and improve the recycling rates in our schools. In this, our final segment of the series, we're focusing on those items which are recyclable, but not through our MCPS recycling program.

Now that our school recycling programs are operating effectively and recycling all cardboard, commingled items and yard waste (as set forth by [Montgomery County Executive Regulation 1-15](#)), the school-based SERT team may want to investigate additional ways to reduce, reuse, and/or recycle. These "extra" items fall into a category that we call "voluntary recycling."

Elementary and middle schools may want to check out the [Elmer's Glue Crew Recycling Program](#). [Trex Recycling Programs](#) are also an

excellent way to recycle all of the plastic bags that we cannot recycle through MCPS, and [Terracycle's Free Recycling Programs](#) are wonderful. You'll also find some great resources on the [Keep America Beautiful website](#).

If your school is routinely generating any material that is currently not being recycled, please contact the SERT program to determine if there are opportunities to recycle those items through our voluntary recycling program. Remember to submit a Voluntary Recycling Form ([MCPS Form 201-9](#)) to record your efforts.

Recognizing Our Remarkable Recyclers

During the first quarter (September–November) of the 2017–2018 academic year, 72 of our schools recycled 5% or more OVER the average baseline pounds per person (PPP) for their school level. We are extremely proud of the efforts of our students and staff. The SERT program appreciates your dedication to recycling and the efforts you make every day to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Arcola	Germantown
Bannockburn	Glen Haven
Belmont	Glenallan
Bethesda	Highland
Brooke Grove	Highland View
Cannon Road	Jones Lane
Cashell	Laytonsville
Chevy Chase	Little Bennett
Clopper Mill	Luxmanor
Cold Spring	Meadow Hall
Cresthaven	Mill Creek Towne
Damascus	Monocacy
Darnestown	New Hampshire Estates
DuFief	Roscoe Nix
Fallsmead	North Chevy Chase
Flower Hill	Oak View
Flower Valley	Oakland Terrace
Gaithersburg	William Tyler Page
Galway	Pine Crest

Dr. Sally K. Ride
Rock Creek Valley
Lois P. Rockwell
Rosemont
Sequoyah
Seven Locks
Sligo Creek
Stedwick
Strathmore
Summit Hall
Takoma Park
Travilah
Twinbrook
Washington Grove
Westbrook
Westover
Wilson Wims
Wood Acres

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Herbert
Hoover
Martin Luther King, Jr.
A. Mario Loiederman
Parkland
John Poole
Redland
Silver Creek
White Oak

HIGH SCHOOLS

Damascus
Albert Einstein
Col. Zadok Magruder
Northwood
Paint Branch
Quince Orchard
Seneca Valley

2017–2018 BASELINES

Did you know that the recycling baselines change from year to year? This year, the goals are 4.92 PPP for elementary schools; 3.36 PPP for middle schools; and 2.42 PPP for high schools. How's your school's doing so far? [Click here to see your school's data.](#)

Watts Up? Poster Contest

Recycling our paper, glass, aluminum and plastic is an easy yet effective way to make a great impact on the earth. As we live responsibly, people around us will notice and begin to follow our example. Let's 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. Share your ideas and encourage others to reduce waste and increase recycling to make MCPS a greener place to learn.

Poster Contest Guidelines

1. All MCPS elementary, middle, and high school students and staff are eligible to enter the contest.
2. Posters must encourage others to conserve energy and to recycle responsibly.
3. Art must be the original work of a student or staff member and must not contain any copyrighted elements. Artwork should be work the artist has created alone.
4. Posters should be no smaller than 8.5" x 11" and must not exceed 18"x 24" in size.
5. All entries must be accompanied by the official 2018 poster contest [entry form](#), which can be found on our website. Student entry forms must be approved and signed by the student's parent/guardian and school principal. Staff entries do not require approval.
6. Three entries per grade level per school will be accepted. Schools are asked to hold preliminary competitions and submit the best three entries.
7. Contest entries may be mailed to SERT via Pony or first class mail, or delivered by hand. Entries must be delivered on or before **April 17, 2018** to the SERT program. Our address is below.
8. Upon submission, entries become property of MCPS and will not be returned. The SERT program will not be responsible for lost or damaged artwork.
9. Artwork and artist information may be used in future public awareness campaigns by MCPS.

Poster Judging

Last year, we initiated an online poster judging process using Google that worked very well. This year we'll expand the poll and invite all MCPS staff to participate in the final round of judging. Watch for more details. Contest winners will be announced before the school year ends.

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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