



# SERT Flash

School Energy and Recycling Team



## Natural Lighting Saves Energy!



Gaithersburg Elementary School:  
(L-R) Mr. Ruthven Cooper, Building Service Manager; Ms. Niki Hazel, Principal; Mr. Joseph Rowe, Assistant Principal

### Did you know that approximately one third of a buildings energy use comes from lighting?

Gaithersburg Elementary School saves energy by leaving hallway lighting off on sunny days! Taking advantage of natural day lighting from windows and existing emergency lighting provides enough illumination to meet the needs of the students and teachers at Gaithersburg Elementary School. These efforts are recognized and supported by their team including Principal, Ms. Niki Hazel, Assistant Principal, Mr. Joseph Rowe, and Building Service Manager, Mr. Ruthven Cooper. When visiting the school, SERT notices that on most days hallway lighting remains off. We appreciate Mr. Cooper who has been following this strategy for years which keeps their energy use down. Remember the best way to conserve is not to use.

Taking advantage of natural day lighting and assessing needs along with preferences allows most schools to adjust their lighting use. Mr. Dwight Brown, building service manager, at Sally K. Ride Elementary School practices lighting conservation strategies too.

Consider the lighting needs in your school while taking advantage of natural daylight. SERT can provide light meters for students and staff to explore the building. Adjusting lighting levels by measuring foot candles with these meters can save energy and be a fun educational activity for all who are involved.



Other opportunities for saving energy through lighting manipulation can be taken advantage of by simply delaying the time the lights are turned on in the morning.

Do you have a "SERT Flash" you would like to share about your SERT efforts? Please submit a photograph and paragraph about your team and you too can be featured in a future FLASH!

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"It's your world...choose to conserve"