



School Energy and Recycling Team **Program Overview**

- Participation in SERT is mandatory for all Montgomery County Public Schools.
- A new and current SERT Action Plan must be submitted by the last Friday in September of each year. This deadline coordinates with the County's Recycling Plan deadline.
- MCPS Data shows that about 15% of the electrical energy used by school occupants is wasted from lights, computers and other non-HVAC equipment left on while not in use. Therefore, a 5% energy conservation mandate over the baseline year has been established for each school facility.
- The Montgomery County Government requires all public facilities to recycle 50% of all solid waste material generated. SERT facilitators are available to help engage your staff and students in an active recycling program.
- Principal's support of the SERT team is strongly encouraged to establish school wide awareness and participation, to promote environmental stewardship and to ensure proper use of awards. The Principal's Handbook provides the energy conservation and recycling guidelines that should be followed for efficient building management.
- All schools are assigned a SERT energy facilitator based on their maintenance depot. The SERT energy facilitators support the SERT Team's efforts in energy conservation and recycling.

Annual SERT Conservation Awards

- Submitting your SERT Action Plan prior to the deadline earns your school a \$100 award to kick-off your SERT team.
- SERT Awards will be based on either of the following two performance criteria (1) verifiable energy savings and (2) great energy management strategies. The energy savings are verified through data analysis. Great energy management behavior is verified by your school's assigned SERT energy facilitator or other Energy Resource Team members during visits.

Annual SERT Recycling Awards

- Recycling Rewards are awarded to eligible schools that sustain a recycling rate of 36% or more, or achieve a substantial improvement in recycling performance compared with other schools.
- Ratings are based on recycling percentage, county grades, SERT facilitator data points, and evidence of an active in-school recycling program.

Special SERT Awards

- Annual SERT awards are granted to superior performing schools that exemplify the culture of conservation, present a strong SERT Magic Triangle, and have an exceptional SERT team that demonstrates consistent conservation.
- Special awards are also granted to building services managers who consistently promote the culture of conservation, participate in the energy shut downs, and play an active role in the SERT Magic Triangle. Awards are deposited directly into building service supply accounts.



For more information regarding the SERT Program @ MCPS please contact us at:
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