



# SERT Flash

School Energy and Recycling Team



## **Innovative Thinking Inspires New Recycling Practices at Whetstone Elementary School**

Have you ever thought “It’s a shame to throw this out?”

Whetstone Elementary School started a unique pilot program in Montgomery County Public Schools. Susan Still, administrative secretary, realized that the cardboard copy plus boxes were being broken down and recycled after just one use. Her thinking was more along the lines of “Why can’t we reuse these boxes?” Instead of just thinking, Ms. Still took action.

Ms. Still created a pilot program with Department of Materials Management/Copy Plus. The copy plus boxes are collapsed, placed in the pony, and returned to the print shop for reuse. This innovation has economic and environmental benefits and models collaborative efforts that affect change and help make our system environmentally friendly, by reducing our use and extending the life of these useful boxes. The reuse part of the recycling equation is often overlooked. Remember to think before you recycle your boxes, maybe they can be reused.

Thank you.

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”