



SERT Flash

School Energy and Recycling Team



Cafeteria Tray Reduction Efforts

Did you know that select high schools are participating in a pilot program to reduce the number of trays currently being used in our cafeterias?



Select high schools are participating in a “reduce your use” pilot and are making significant progress in reducing the number of cafeteria trays used on a daily basis. Some schools have totally eliminated the use of these trays during breakfast or on certain days while others are working on changing behaviors by making it less convenient to access trays during lunch and breakfast.

Ms. Laura Reese, cafeteria manager at Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School (HS) is currently working on a reduction plan called “No Tray Tuesday” where on selected Tuesdays trays are not used at all in the cafeteria. To promote this program the school broadcasts a video made by students on tray reduction to remind students that food will not be served on trays that particular day. All other times, the trays are placed away from the main serving area. A student standing in the serving area will have to make a conscious effort in order to obtain a tray.

Wootton HS is proud of their reduction efforts. Cafeteria Manager, Ms. Sharon Forbes, places a few trays out at each time and they are placed away from the main serving area. According to Ms. Forbes, they have seen significant reduction in the use of these trays at Wootton HS compared to the same time last year.

Blair HS and Seneca Valley HS have stopped serving breakfast on trays. During lunch, the trays are placed behind the serving counter and cafeteria workers will hand out a tray if asked.

Clarksburg HS and James H. Blake HS have reduced their use by eliminating the use of trays when serving breakfast.

Each of us can do our part to reduce our use in school, at home, and in the cafeteria! Be part of the solution and use only what you need.

Is your school currently participating in a “reduce your use” effort? Please contact SERT office at 240-314-1090 or e-mail us at recycling@mcpsmd.org to share your strategies so we can share your success with all of MCPS.

Together, we can make a difference!

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”