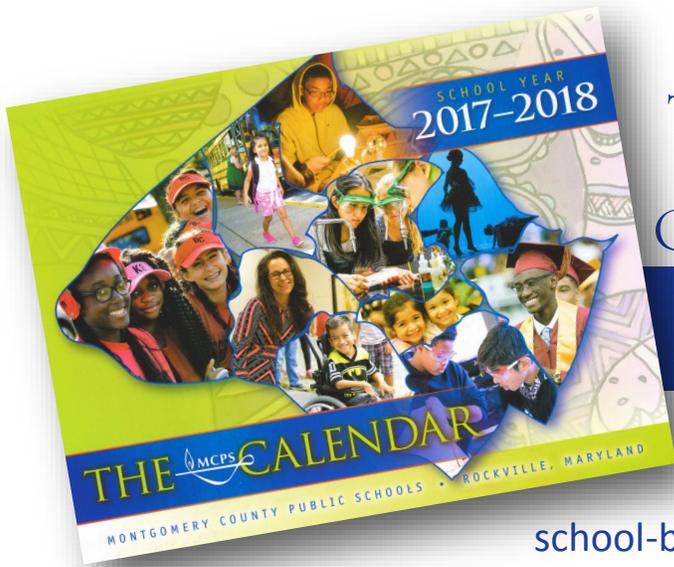




OCTOBER 2017

# SERT Spotlight



## TAKE NOTE OF THESE CALENDAR ITEMS

Now that your school-based SERT team is in place, please add these conservation-related reminders to your 2017–2018 MCPS calendar:

- Wednesday, November 22 Perform [shutdown](#) for Thanksgiving break
- Friday, December 22 Perform [shutdown](#) for Winter break
- Friday, January 12 Perform long weekend [shutdown](#)
- Friday, February 16 Perform long weekend [shutdown](#)
- Friday, March 16 [Lead by Example](#) campaign entries due
- Thursday, March 22 [World Water Day](#)
- Friday, March 23 Perform shutdown for [Spring break](#)
- Saturday, March 24 [Earth Hour](#) (8:30-9:30 p.m.)
- Tuesday, April 17 Deadline for [Watts Up?](#) poster contest
- Sunday, April 22 [Earth Day](#)
- Friday, May 25 Perform long weekend [shutdown](#)
- June 1-30 [Got Paper?](#) recycling contest
- Friday, June 15 Perform [shutdown](#) for the summer
- June 18-August 29 \* Peak Load Management ([PLM](#)) period.

*\*Dates are subject to change. Look for an announcement in the spring.*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### WANTED:

#### SPECTACULAR SCULPTURES

MCPS' creative high school students are invited to participate in the Maryland Department of the Environment's 16th annual "Rethink Recycling" Sculpture Contest.

#### YES, YOU CAN HELP MCPS SAVE ENERGY!

Helping MCPS conserve energy is something that every student and staff person can do. From turning off the lights to unplugging unused devices, every action helps.

#### REMARKABLE RECYCLERS

Did you know that SERT keeps track of the weight of every commingled and paper dumpster that has been picked up for recycling? How else could we tell you who the most remarkable recyclers were for the 2016–2017 school year?!

#### SCHOOL TEAMS

How will you celebrate Earth Day? Will you remember to do energy shutdowns? Have you made plans for your students to enter SERT's contests? Use the list in the column to the left to get more information, download forms, and set reminders.

## Why have the SERT facilitators been handing out “Did You Know?” flyers while making their fall visits to schools?

Because having reliable Information is one of the biggest tools in the decision-making process. SERT believes that when students and staff realize how much MCPS pays for electricity, they’ll understand how important it is for all of us to make smart, energy-wise decisions!

*did you know?*

Last year, the combined electricity bills for MCPS elementary, middle and high schools totaled more than **\$25.5 million!**

Thank you for conserving resources.  
Our future depends on it!

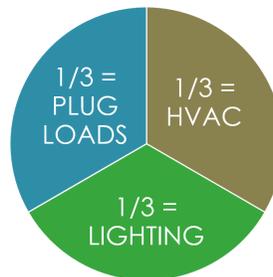
Electricity usage calculation for FY 2017, July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017

SCHOOL ENERGY AND RECYCLING TEAM WWW.GREENSCHOOLSFOCUS.ORG

*it's your world. choose to conserve!*

When we look at the energy consumption of a school, usage can be lumped into three main categories, with roughly one third of the costs coming from each category:

1. HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning)
2. Lighting
3. Plug loads (anything plugged into an outlet)



MCPS’ Energy Management Systems (EMS) team does an excellent job making sure that the HVAC systems run efficiently. This is critical during the summer when the amount we pay for electricity is set by our providers. The Peak Load Management (PLM) period during the summer and efficient heating and cooling activity during the school year dramatically impact our overall electricity costs. Everything that can be done is being done when it comes to the first category, HVAC.

The second category, lighting, is one that SERT emphasizes most often because it’s one of the easiest electricity cost categories to control. Turning lights on only when they’re needed makes a tremendous difference in the electricity usage. When you leave a room, turn off the lights. It’s just that simple. This practice is especially important when using fixtures that utilize incandescent light bulbs. According to the [Department of Energy](#), “regular” light bulbs are the least efficient type of lighting because 90% of the energy they use being produced as heat while only 10% of the energy yields light. Using energy-efficient LED bulbs, task lighting, and delamping overhead fixtures are all also excellent ways to reduce the costs of lighting.

That brings us to the third category: plug loads. Electronic devices use electricity when they’re plugged in — whether they’re running full speed or in standby mode. So remember to power down at the end of the day.

The bottom line is that we want to encourage you to do the easy things that will help reduce energy.

1. Turn off all lights when they’re not needed. Use less light when possible.
2. Turn off electronics that are not in use.
3. Use the SERT [shut down checklist](#) as a resource for saving energy!

If you’re wondering how much energy your school is using, check out the [data](#) page on our website. Remember that it’s your world. Choose to conserve!



**THANKS TO THE OUTSTANDING RECYCLING EFFORTS OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF**, MCPS recycled more than 5,200 tons of paper and commingled materials during the 2016–2017 school year. We applaud your commitment to conservation and sustainability.

All year, SERT tracked the recycled weight of every school and has calculated the average pounds per person (PPP) recycling rates for schools on each level. Last school year, elementary schools recycled at an average of 4.92 PPP; middle schools averaged 4.0 PPP; and the average high school recycled 2.42 PPP. Here’s how we calculate PPP:

$$\text{monthly weight of paper} + \text{weight of commingled} \div \text{total students} + \text{staff} = \text{PPP}$$

Although budget restrictions will not allow us to present monetary awards at this time, we still want to recognize the schools with remarkable recycling programs. Each school listed in the right-hand column recycled 20% or more over the average PPP for their school level, and would have won an annual recycling award for this significant accomplishment.

If your school isn’t in this list of high performing schools, take a moment to review your [recycling data](#). How do your numbers look when measured against the average PPP for your level? What can you do to increase recycling participation at your school?

The best thing you can do is to make sure that your recycling program’s infrastructure is set up properly—

- ◆ Have recycling bins been placed in all rooms?
- ◆ Are labels indicating paper or bottles/cans visible on each bin?
- ◆ Do all bins have lids (to reduce the chance of contamination)?
- ◆ Are your dumpsters always closed and locked?

As always, SERT is here to help you. If you have questions or concerns about recycling at your school, email [recycling@mcpsmd.org](mailto:recycling@mcpsmd.org).

## CLOSING the GAP

When it comes to recycling and PPP, there is a very large gap between our high- and low-performing schools. Next month we will address this issue and give you some pointers on how to improve your recycling program and start closing the gap.

- Arcola Elementary School
  - Belmont Elementary School
  - Brooke Grove Elementary School
  - Cannon Road Elementary School
  - Clopper Mill Elementary School
  - Crethaven Elementary School
  - Flower Valley Elementary School
  - Galway Elementary School
  - Germantown Elementary School
  - Glen Haven Elementary School
  - Highland Elementary School
  - Highland View Elementary School
  - Jones Lane Elementary School
  - Kemp Mill Elementary School
  - Kensington-Parkwood Elem. School
  - Little Bennett Elementary School
  - Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School
  - Meadow Hall Elementary School
  - Monocacy Elementary School
  - New Hampshire Estates Elem. School
  - North Chevy Chase Elementary School
  - Oak View Elementary School
  - Pine Crest Elementary School
  - Roscoe Nix Elementary School
  - Sargent Shriver Elementary School
  - Sequoyah Elementary School
  - Stedwick Elementary School
  - Travilah Elementary School
  - Washington Grove Elementary School
  - Wayside Elementary School
  - Westover Elementary School
  - William Tyler Page Elementary School
- 
- Argyle Middle School
  - Gaithersburg Middle School
  - John Poole Middle School
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School
  - Newport Mill Middle School
  - Parkland Middle School
  - White Oak Middle School
- 
- Clarksburg High School
  - Damascus High School
  - James Hubert Blake High School
  - Northwood High School

# Rethink Recycling in Creative Ways

The **Maryland Department of the Environment** (MDE) will hold its' 16th annual *Rethink Recycling* sculpture contest on November 30, 2017. MDE has invited all Maryland high schools to enter this competition, giving students an opportunity to be inventive and create a sculpture made from recyclable or reused materials.

Judges will select an overall winning sculpture along with individual recognition for creativity, workmanship and use of materials. Additionally, a "People's Choice Award" is given. Contests held in previous years have received national recognition and television news airtime. Prizes that have been provided from corporate and non-profit organization sponsors will be awarded to all contestants. Past prizes have included items such as gift cards, tablets and an HP Pavilion X360 laptop.

Visit the MDE [website](#) to get more information regarding the *Rethink Recycling* sculpture contest, including entry forms and project guidelines. Space is limited so please submit an entry form by **October 27, 2017** to confirm your school's participation.



*Last year, Parker Montour from Walkersville High School in Frederick County took home the grand prize award for her "Tony Hawk" sculpture which was made from chicken wire, aluminum cans, newspaper and cardboard.*

*MCPS was represented with entries from Robert Frost MS, Northwest HS, and Northwood HS.*

*Photograph by MDE © 2016*



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 STAFF:**

- [Richard Benjamin](#), program manager
- [Helen Blankfeld](#), information specialist
- [Donald "DJ" Connelly](#), facilitator
- [Terina Garcia](#), facilitator
- [Linda McLaughlin](#), program technician
- [John Meyer](#), recycling manager
- [Jim Stufft](#), facilitator

