



# SERT Spotlight



It's September.  
Time to finalize your  
SERT Action Plan!

## Welcome Back to School!

The **SCHOOL ENERGY AND RECYCLING TEAM** (SERT) program staff hopes that you had a fantastic and safe summer break and that you're energized and ready to provide the very best education to our students. We also hope that you're ready to set your energy conservation and recycling goals and put your plan into action. Our SERT program staff had a very productive summer. We've updated some of our program materials and resources (including a new [video contest](#)), established our strategic goals for the new school year, implemented the summertime Peak Load Management program, conducted school visits, and worked to get everything running smoothly with our new recycling hauler.

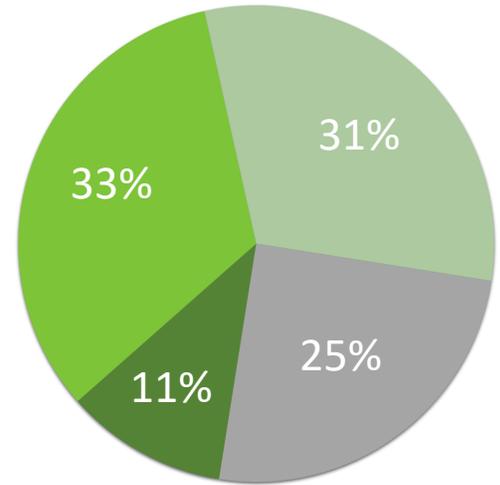
As we begin the 2019–2020 school year, we look forward to building on our successes from last school year and helping schools set (and achieve) new goals. We encourage each student and staff member to make a renewed commitment to environmental sustainability because together, we can accomplish more. Please remember that all Montgomery County Public Schools are required to submit a SERT Action Plan ([MCPS Form 201-10](#)) by the end of the month. Kick off the new year by visiting our [website](#) and checking out SERT's offerings. Now's the time to [schedule](#) conservation-themed assemblies and lunchtime recycling learning sessions; check out our contests; and review all of our online [resources](#). You may also want to join the [Connect the Dots](#) program which challenges K–12 schools in our area to develop and implement the most creative, effective, no- or low-cost sustainable practices for their schools. We look forward to working with you and your school. We're always available to assist with your energy conservation and recycling participation programs. Remember that it's your world—choose to conserve!

# Third Quarter Energy Awards

**THE SERT PROGRAM** is pleased to announce that our schools made significant efforts to save energy during the third quarter (March–May) of the 2018–2019 academic year. During these challenging budgetary times, any avoidable operating costs will have a positive impact on our educational initiatives. Seventy-five percent of our schools demonstrated great energy management behavior and showed energy savings compared to their baseline and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) was able to achieve \$196,504 in energy cost avoidance during the third quarter. Well done!

Schools achieving top energy cost avoidance as compared to their baseline usage are eligible to receive quarterly monetary awards. The baseline for each school is an average use of their prior five school years for the same quarter. Schools without an established baseline are eligible to receive a monetary Great Energy Management (GEM) award which is based on demonstrated active participation in the SERT program and energy-efficient behavior.

We applaud all of our students and staff for their commitment to conservation and sustainability and congratulate the 54 MCPS schools listed below for earning SERT energy awards:



**MCPS SCHOOLS WITH —**

- GEM STATUS
- SAVINGS GREATER THAN 5%
- SAVINGS UP TO 5%
- NO SAVINGS

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- |                                    |   |                                   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Beall Elementary School            | William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School | Piney Branch Elementary School    |
| Brown Station Elementary School    | Highland Elementary School              | Ritchie Park Elementary School    |
| Burnt Mills Elementary School      | Jones Lane Elementary School            | Sherwood Elementary School        |
| Cedar Grove Elementary School      | Lake Seneca Elementary School           | Flora M. Singer Elementary School |
| Clopper Mill Elementary School     | Lakewood Elementary School              | Sligo Creek Elementary School     |
| Cloverly Elementary School         | Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School    | Somerset Elementary School        |
| Cresthaven Elementary School       | Montgomery Knolls Elementary School     | South Lake Elementary School      |
| Capt. James Daly Elementary School | New Hampshire Est. Elementary School    | Stone Mill Elementary School      |
| Flower Hill Elementary School      | Roscoe Nix Elementary School            | Summit Hall Elementary School     |
| Forest Knolls Elementary School    | Olney Elementary School                 | Westbrook Elementary School       |
| Galway Elementary School           | Pine Crest Elementary School            | Woodlin Elementary School         |
|                                    |   | Wyngate Elementary School         |

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Argyle Middle School            | Lakelands Park Middle School      |
| John T. Baker Middle School     | Neelsville Middle School          |
| Benjamin Banneker Middle School | Redland Middle School             |
| Briggs Chaney Middle School     | Rocky Hill Middle School          |
| Roberto Clemente Middle School  | Silver Spring Int'l Middle School |
| Eastern Middle School           | Sligo Middle School               |
| Robert Frost Middle School      | Julius West Middle School         |
| Francis Scott Key Middle School |                                   |

## HIGH SCHOOLS

- Clarksburg High School
- Damascus High School
- Sherwood High School
- Watkins Mill High School
- Thomas S. Wootton High School

**KNOWING WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T RECYCLE IN YOUR SCHOOL IS HALF THE BATTLE!**

Please refer to this reference when recycling within Montgomery County Public Schools.

If you have questions about materials not listed here, email [recycling@mcpsmd.org](mailto:recycling@mcpsmd.org).

**MIXED PAPER**

**ACCEPTABLE PAPER ITEMS**

- ✓ Empty milk and juice containers
- ✓ Lunch trays, paper boat trays, paper plates and cups
- ✓ Newspapers (with inserts)
- ✓ Brown paper bags
- ✓ Telephone books
- ✓ Construction paper
- ✓ Files and folders
- ✓ Cardstock
- ✓ Magazines, catalogs, junk mail, and windowed envelopes
- ✓ Cardboard and paperboard boxes (including all cereal boxes without the liners, frozen food packaging, etc.)
- ✓ Corrugated cardboard (all boxes must be broken down)
- ✓ Spiral notebooks and composition books
- ✓ Colored paper, theme paper, and used copier paper
- ✓ Books (including paperbacks, textbooks, and hardbacks)
- ✓ Shredded paper contained in a sealed/tied clear plastic bag
- ✓ Non-metallic wrapping paper
- ✓ Paper bulletin board decorations



**UNACCEPTABLE PAPER ITEMS**

- ✗ Any paper contaminated with food waste
- ✗ Food contaminated paper plates
- ✗ Food contaminated paper cups
- ✗ Paper towels, tissues
- ✗ Metallic wrapping paper
- ✗ Laminated paper
- ✗ Loose, shredded paper, and plastic-coated paper



**COMMINGLED ITEMS**

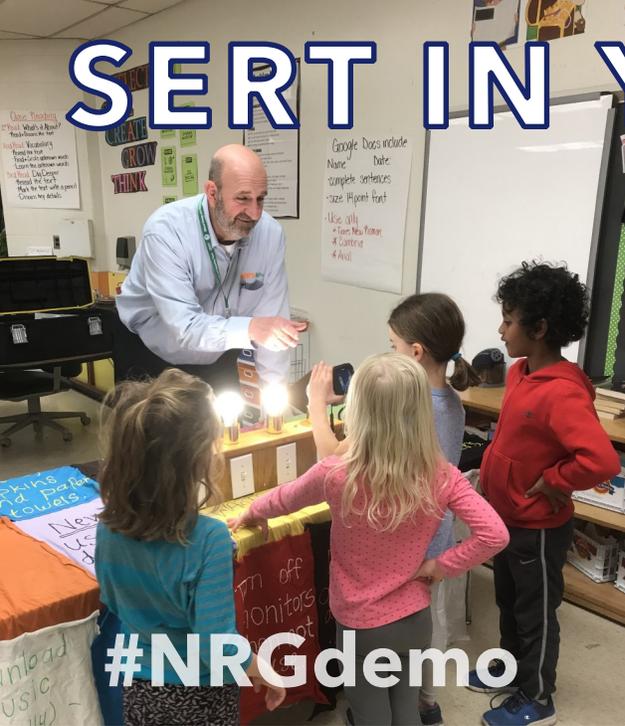
**ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC, BOTTLES, CANS**

- ✓ Black plastic (PET Plastic #1) food containers
- ✓ Empty plastic milk, juice, and water bottles
- ✓ PET #1 Thermoform plastic packaging, such as clamshell containers, trays, deli containers, lids, and caps
- ✓ #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7 rigid plastic containers, including bottles, jugs, wide-mouth tubs, caps, salad and vegetable containers
- ✓ Aluminum food and beverage containers
- ✓ Bi-metal steel/tin cans, such as soup and vegetable cans
- ✓ Clean aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
- ✓ Glass containers: brown, clear, and green glass containers jars and bottles
- ✓ Empty non-hazardous aerosol cans
- ✓ Plastic buckets with metal handles (such as floor wax and stripper)
- ✓ Plastic flower pots
- ✓ Plastic drinking cups/glasses (stadium cups)
- ✓ Plastic 5-gallon water bottles

**UNACCEPTABLE PLASTIC, BOTTLES, CANS**

- ✗ Styrofoam (cups, plates, bowls, to-go containers, and foam packing material of any kind); #6 plastics
- ✗ Materials contaminated with food waste or grease
- ✗ Trash/food waste
- ✗ Colored plastic film (such as candy and food wrappers or bags, colored plastic bags)
- ✗ Plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons)
- ✗ Non-container glass (cookware, plate glass, window glass)
- ✗ Motor oil, anti-freeze, and pesticide containers
- ✗ Ceramics
- ✗ Construction and demolition material; vinyl siding
- ✗ Wood

# SERT IN YOUR SCHOOL



#NRGdemo



#SERTteam



#ReadAloud

09.19



#awards



#supplies

**SERT SPOTLIGHT** is produced by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program and distributed to school-based SERT leaders and teams, building service personnel, and many others who are interested in conservation and environmental 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. The SERT program supports a balanced environment for the integration of all students to work together in a culturally diverse environment. Our goal is to provide the resources, support, and vision of the future for a successful conservation program at each school. SERT's motto, "It's your world. Choose to conserve!" promotes the connection between human behavior and its impact on the environment. It reinforces our culture of conservation and encourages participation in our mission to conserve resources and recycle actively.

