

NOVEMBER 2018

A newsletter published by
the School Energy and
Recycling Team

SERT Spotlight



THE LEAVES HAVE FALLEN AND SO HAVE THE OUTDOOR

TEMPERATURES. Thankfully the heat has been turned on in our schools, but are you comfortable? Is it too warm in certain areas of your school while being too cold in others? If this is the case, perhaps now is the perfect time for your school-based SERT team to do a [temperature survey](#).

In addition to improved student and staff comfort levels and energy conservation, conducting a school-wide temperature survey can also be an excellent science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activity. Students can learn about the science of heating and heat transfer and the technology and engineering that makes it happen. They can experience real-world applications of math as they take measurements, calculate data, and graph temperature trends.

Montgomery County Public Schools spends an average of \$6 million each year for natural gas to heat most of our schools and supporting facilities (some of our facilities use electricity to produce heat). By completing a temperature survey, you can help make sure that your school is heating at a proper level and that energy is not being wasted.

Conserving energy in any form—whether it be electricity or natural gas—is good for our planet. It helps save valuable natural resources and lower the carbon footprint that we generate. For a complete information packet and helpful tips on how to complete a temperature survey at your school, [click here](#). If you have questions or need assistance with the survey, email SERT@mcpsmd.org.



THE SCHOOL ENERGY AND RECYCLING TEAM (SERT) PROGRAM is pleased to announce that our schools made significant efforts to save energy during the fourth quarter (June–August) of the 2017–2018 academic year. During these challenging budgetary times, any avoidable operating costs will have a positive impact on our educational initiatives. Nearly two thirds 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 \$195,530 in energy cost avoidance during the fourth quarter of last school year.

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. If your school isn't listed below, contact your [SERT facilitator](#) to learn how your school might save energy.



We applaud all of our students and staff for their commitment to conservation and sustainability and congratulate the following 56 MCPS schools for earning SERT energy awards:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bannockburn Elementary School
Belmont Elementary School
Bradley Hills Elementary School
Brooke Grove Elementary School
Brookhaven Elementary School
Brown Station Elementary School
Candlewood Elementary School
Clarksburg Elementary School
Cloverly Elementary School
College Gardens Elementary School
Capt. James Daly Elementary School
William Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School

Glen Haven Elementary School
Highland Elementary School
Jones Lane Elementary School
Kensington Parkwood Elem. School
Little Bennett Elementary School
Luxmanor Elementary School
Maryvale Elementary School
Mill Creek Towne Elementary School
Monocacy Elementary School
New Hampshire Estates Elem. School
Oakland Terrace Elementary School
Olney Elementary School

Rock View Elementary School
Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School
Carl Sandburg Learning Center
Sequoyah Elementary School
Sligo Creek Elementary School
Somerset Elementary School
South Lake Elementary School
Stone Mill Elementary School
Strathmore Elementary School
Travilah Elementary School
Weller Road Elementary School

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Argyle Middle School
John T. Baker Middle School
Cabin John Middle School
Eastern Middle School
Robert Frost Middle School
Lakelands Park Middle School
Montgomery Village Middle School

Redland Middle School
Ridgeview Middle School
Silver Creek Middle School
Silver Spring Int'l Middle School
Hallie Wells Middle School
Earle B. Wood Middle School

HIGH SCHOOLS

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
James Hubert Blake High School
Winston Churchill High School
Damascus High School
John F. Kennedy High School
Springbrook High School
Watkins Mill High School
Thomas S. Wootton High School

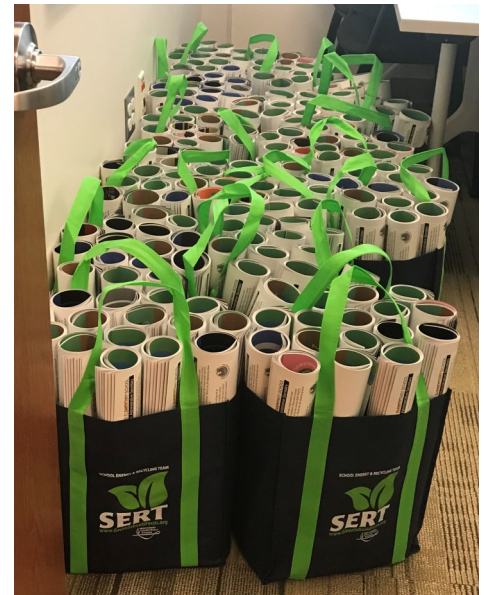


“Watts” Hanging on Your Hallway Walls?!

A few weeks ago, we received our beautiful new collection of “WATTS UP?” CONSERVATION POSTERS, created from winning entries submitted to the 2018 poster contest. Our SERT staff had a wonderful time bonding while banding batches of posters together and getting them ready to be distributed to our MCPS schools via Pony. We’ve already seen some of them gracing school hallways and we’re grateful to the folks in the Department of Materials Management for delivering them so quickly.

If you’re interested in obtaining additional posters, please visit [our website](#). You’ll find images of all the posters currently available, and instructions on how to order them via Maximo. You may also click on the images below to get high-resolution files.

Now that you’re thinking about the posters, it’s not too early to start thinking about the 2019 Watts Up? poster contest! All MCPS students and staff are encouraged to submit entries and it’s not too early to start making plans. Information for the contest has been distributed to schools and is also available on [our website](#). We look forward to receiving lots of creative pieces. Congratulations to the winners of our 2018 contest. Well done!

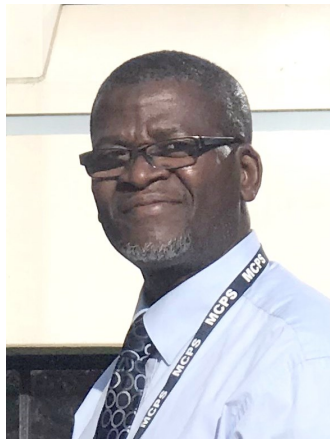


BAGS OF POSTERS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION AFTER OUR POSTER-PACKIN’ PARTY!



Team Transitions

THE SERT PROGRAM experienced a quite a bit of transition last month as we welcomed a new staff member and said farewell to another. On Monday, October 15, [Mr. Yusuf Umar](#) joined our team as the program technician for recycling. Yusuf served most recently as the building service manager (BSM) at Paint Branch High School. Prior to that, he was the BSM at Francis Scott Key Middle School and Westover Elementary School. Those who follow MCPS' achievements relative to Green Ribbon Schools will remember that in 2012, Key Middle School was the first MCPS school to receive the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Green Ribbon School Award. Several of the efforts of the building service team under Yusuf's leadership at Key MS were highlighted in the application for the award. Yusuf played a major role in demonstrating the successful efforts of his student teams that ensured responsible recycling at the school. We look forward to working with Yusuf to further strengthen the recycling program throughout MCPS.



YUSUF UMAR

Two days after welcoming Yusuf to the team, SERT said goodbye to [Mr. DJ Connelly](#) who served as the Facilitator for the Bethesda area schools for the past seven years. During his time with SERT, he significantly contributed to increasing energy conservation and recycling participation at the schools. Through his visits and outreach to schools, he has been a positive influence on administrators and thousands of staff members and students to be responsible environmental stewards. We thank DJ for his contributions to the SERT program and wish him much success in his new position as Planner II, Facilities Analyst in the Division of Capital Planning.

*good AND good
bye luck!*



DJ CONNELLY

This newsletter is produced by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program and distributed to school-based SERT leaders and 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.

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. 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

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