

MARCH/APRIL 2019

A newsletter published by
the School Energy and
Recycling Team

SERT Spotlight

Earth Day 2019: Protect Our Species



EACH YEAR ON APRIL 22, people around the world celebrate Earth Day, focusing on the planet's environment and holding activities to raise public awareness about the negative effects pollution has on Mother Earth. The idea for Earth Day was proposed by Senator Gaylord Nelson who had witnessed the damage caused by a massive oil spill in 1969. Inspired by student involvement in the anti-Vietnam War movement, Senator Nelson realized that if that same level of enthusiasm was focused on the environment, change would take place. In 1970, his staff of 85 concerned citizens organized a national "teach-in" that focused on educating the public about the environment. They were able to convince 20 million people across the United States to participate in protests, rallies, and other public events on April 22, 1970 to raise awareness about the environment and find ways to protect the planet. By 1990, the event had gone global with 200 million people in 141 countries participating. To celebrate its 40th anniversary, the Earth Day Network launched a campaign in 2010 to plant one billion trees—a feat that was accomplished in 2012.

In 2017, Darae Kang created beautiful contest-winning artwork for the Watts Up? poster contest that fit the targeted Earth Day messages for 2018 and 2019: ending plastic pollution and protecting our endangered species.

While the overarching annual theme for Earth Day is protection of the planet, each year also has a special focus. The targeted message for 2018 was ending plastic pollution; this year it's protecting our threatened and endangered species. Watch for special 50th anniversary celebrations to take place in 2020.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has historically made intentional, environmentally-friendly decisions in the areas of building construction and maintenance, resource conservation, transportation, materials and waste cycles, and information technology. MCPS continues to be a leader in green and healthy-schools initiatives and integrates environmental literacy into the curriculum at all grade levels. Those who support Earth Day understand that awareness and education are foundations for progress. This is why we promote Earth Day within our MCPS system. Some of our schools will hold special assemblies or have school spirit weeks that focus on Earth Day while others will host community cleanup activities. These actions not only help us make our earth a better place to live, they also teach our students to be responsible environmental stewards and future leaders. For more information about Earth Day, visit www.EarthDay.org. 🌱



Forty-six Schools Earned Energy Awards

THE SERT PROGRAM is pleased to announce that our schools made significant efforts to save energy during the first quarter of the 2018–2019 academic year (September—November).

Despite unusual and extreme weather conditions, the 46 schools listed below saved energy or demonstrated great energy management and we applaud all of our students and staff for their commitment to conservation and sustainability and congratulate them for earning energy awards.



The temperatures on 21 of 30 days in September were higher than normal. Additionally, September 2018 was the most warm and damp September in nearly 140 years. This was the coldest November since 1997 and the first November snowfall in nearly 30 years.

Infographic data sources: https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2018/10/01/it-was-most-swampy-september-washington-record/?utm_term=.7aaac2d59721
https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2018/12/03/it-was-washingtons-wettest-november-record-coldest-two-decades/?utm_term=.339a31ed4732

During these challenging budgetary times, any avoidable operating costs will have a positive impact on the important educational initiatives of Montgomery County Public Schools.

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 that is based on demonstrated active participation in the SERT program and energy-efficient behavior. 🌱

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Arcola Elementary School
Brooke Grove Elementary School
Belmont Elementary School
Bethesda Elementary School
Brown Station Elementary School
Cedar Grove Elementary School
Clarksburg Elementary School
Cloverly Elementary School
Cresthaven Elementary School
Darnestown Elementary School
East Silver Spring Elementary School

Flower Valley Elementary School
Galway Elementary School
Georgian Forest Elementary School
William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School
Glen Haven Elementary School
Great Seneca Creek Elementary School
Greenwood Elementary School
Jackson Road Elementary School
Lake Seneca Elementary School
New Hampshire Estates Elem. School

Piney Branch Elementary School
Rock Creek Forest Elementary School
South Lake Elementary School
Stone Mill Elementary School
Oakland Terrace Elementary School
Wilson Wims Elementary School

HIGH SCHOOLS

Montgomery Blair High School
James Hubert Blake High School
Clarksburg High School
Damascus High School
John F. Kennedy High School
Northwest High School
Poolesville High School
Sherwood High School
Thomas S. Wootton High School

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Argyle Middle School
John T. Baker Middle School
Benjamin Banneker Middle School
Briggs Chaney Middle School
Eastern Middle School

Forest Oak Middle School
Kingsview Middle School
Montgomery Village Middle School
Rocky Hill Middle School
Takoma Park Middle School

Recycling Reminders for Spring

IT MIGHT NOT FEEL LIKE IT YET but spring really is just around the corner! Our Maryland temperatures are starting to rise, the sun has started shining just a little bit brighter, and soon the April showers are going to make the grass, flowers, weeds, and shrubs grow.

You might not realize it, but the change in the weather also has a great impact on our recycling program. Better weather means that our community members will be using the outdoor exercise and play areas more often.

Warmer weather means that our community members will be using the playgrounds, tennis/ basketball courts, track, and fields much more often. It is vitally important to make sure that all of the outdoor recycling and trash bins are being emptied on a regular basis.



Outdoor Recycling

Springtime is when we begin start spending time caring for our landscapes. It means cutting the grass, trimming the trees, pruning bushes, planting flowers, and pulling weeds.

Please remember to place yard waste (grass, leaves, and brush) in paper bags or clear plastic bags and set yard waste aside in the designated area. Then use Maximo to place a work order requesting a special pick-up.



Yard Waste

Warm weather also means that your neighbors may be in spring cleaning mode. Dumpsters that are unlocked and open are an invitation for your neighbors to dump their trash!

Please make sure that your recycling dumpsters are locked at all times. Remember that the dumpster does not need to be unlocked for servicing. 🌱



Recycling Dumpsters

**GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT
RECYCLING IN MCPS?
CALL 240-277-3285.**



Recycling Awards

IN OUR JANUARY ISSUE, we explained how the structure of the SERT recycling awards has changed, and announced the first winners of the new quarterly awards.

We're pleased to report that for the second quarter of the 2018–2019 academic year (December–February), the average pounds per person (PPP) recycled in our elementary schools was 5.62, middle schools averaged 4.29 PPP, and high schools achieved 2.74 PPP.

We thank our students and staff for their remarkable recycling efforts throughout the quarter and applaud the top 25 schools (15 elementary, 5 middle, and 5 high) listed below for earning a recycling award for the second quarter. 🌱

TOP 15 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Belmont Elementary School
 Cold Spring Elementary School
 Damascus Elementary School
 Germantown Elementary School
 Glen Haven Elementary School
 Glenallan Elementary School
 Highland View Elementary School
 Laytonsville Elementary School
 Monocacy Elementary School
 New Hampshire Estates Elementary School
 Oak View Elementary School
 Sequoyah Elementary School
 Sligo Creek Elementary School
 Travilah Elementary School
 Westbrook Elementary School

TOP 5 MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

John T. Baker Middle School
 Gaithersburg Middle School
 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School
 Redland Middle School
 Rocky Hill Middle School

TOP 5 HIGH SCHOOLS:

Albert Einstein High School
 Northwood High School
 Quince Orchard High School
 Seneca Valley High School
 Sherwood High School

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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