



# SCHOOL ENERGY & RECYCLING TEAM (SERT)

## Understanding Your Energy Use Baseline



The mission of the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program is to significantly reduce the energy and natural resource consumption, and increase recycling participation systemwide in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The SERT program promotes efficient and responsible use of energy, and rewards schools with quarterly monetary awards as an incentive to reduce energy usage. The quarterly incentive awards are given to schools that consume less energy as compared to their pre-established baseline usage.

Previously, 2003 was the baseline year for the majority of schools in the system. Since 2003, MCPS has seen measurable decrease in the energy use largely due to SERT efforts, positive behaviors of the building occupants, improvements to energy management systems, energy efficient improvements to the building, and heating and air-conditioning systems upgrades. Due to these factors, the need to measure the current performance of schools to a more relevant baseline has risen.

Beginning 2015-2016 school year, the new baseline is an average energy use of the prior five school years. Each school's quarterly energy usage will be compared against the same period's average of the prior five school years. As each school had an active SERT program during this time, the reported energy use and cost avoidance for each school represents the marginal savings over a baseline that includes the efforts of SERT. The new baseline also compensates for energy use anomalies due to extreme weather related temperature fluctuations, energy use variations related to plant equipment improvements and/or malfunction, and other building conditions. To view your school's energy use, please select [SERT Data](#)

Contact the SERT program if you have additional questions by e-mail [SERT@mcpsmd.org](mailto:SERT@mcpsmd.org) or call 240-314-1090. Visit [www.greenschoolsfocus.org](http://www.greenschoolsfocus.org) to learn more about energy conservation or to improve recycling at your school.

### MCPS

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