

SERT Spotlight

June-July 2020

SERT Receives Recertification as a Maryland Green Center



On June 1, the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) officially recognized that the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program achieved its second recertification as a Maryland Green Center.

The SERT program was first certified as a Maryland Green Center (MDGC) in 2012, and then achieved its first recertification in 2016. Like Maryland Green School (MDGS), Maryland Green Centers must apply for recertification every four years.

The SERT program collaborates with the Outdoor Environmental Education Programs (OEEP), the other Maryland Green Center in MCPS. Together, we work with other external MDGC partners to help our schools become Maryland Green School and maintain their certification.

“We are so fortunate to have a network of Green Centers who support Maryland schools. Green Center staff members are mentors, trainers, teachers, and cheerleaders for what we call ‘Green Teams’ working towards Maryland Green School certification,” said Laura Collard, executive director of MAEOE.

All Maryland Green Centers must model sustainable best practices and support environmental learning. As MDGCs, the SERT program and OEEP both offer a wide variety of services that help facilitate the development of new Maryland Green School candidates, and assist existing MDGS within MCPS to maintain their certification. SERT and OEEP assist MCPS schools by:

- Supporting Maryland Green School applicants
- Providing information about the Maryland Green School program
- Providing program support for school environmental activities
- Providing focused in-service or professional development opportunities for teachers
- Partnering with schools for solutions to environmental issues in the community

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- Providing schools with contacts and connections to the appropriate resources needed for certification/recertification
 - Demonstrating environmentally sustainable practices through school activities
 - Modeling at least 4 of the 8 sustainable practices listed in the Maryland Green School application
 - Incorporating students in the use or education description of the practices
 - Supporting community environmental learning
 - Being involved with the broader school community

The SERT program strives to demonstrate and achieve sustainable practices within MCPS through steadfast dedication to resource conservation. SERT staff members are committed to providing the resources, support, and vision necessary for a successful conservation program and a sustainable future for our students—our future leaders. As a MDGC, the SERT program will continue to support Montgomery County Public Schools in their pursuit to become, and remain, certified Maryland Green Schools.

For more information about what it means to be a Maryland Green School, please visit [MAEOE's website](#) or contact your school's [designated SERT facilitator](#).

Congratulations to the 2020 Maryland Green Schools!

Congratulations to the 25 MCPS schools that have achieved new certification or recertification as Maryland Green Schools. The Maryland Green School Award represents a school-wide commitment to environmental literacy and engagement that includes students, staff, and the community. Simply put, being a Green School shows a commitment to environmental sustainability. The SERT program recognizes the “green” efforts our schools have achieved, and we highly commend this significant accomplishment.

Each Maryland Green School in MCPS, of which we have 87, is part of a national and international effort working to create a more sustainable future. In a reflection about being a Green School, this 5th grade student at Clarksburg E.S. shared the following:

“I joined the Environmental Club because I thought it would be interesting saving the environment and exploring out in the wild. I want to work with people. It is important to care about the environment because the environment is our source of life. We’re a green school because we care about the environment, and we take good care of it.”

The SERT program, the Outdoor Environmental Education Programs (OEEP), the Audubon Naturalist Society *GreenKids* program, and Black Hill Park Nature Center and the Montgomery Parks, all work closely together as Maryland Green Center partners to help our schools become Maryland Green Schools and maintain their certification.

Congratulations to the following 2020 honorees:

Arcola Elementary School (2011, 2015, 2020)
Belmont Elementary School (2016, 2020)
Beverly Farms Elementary School (2010, 2016, 2020)
Captain James E. Daly, Jr. Elementary School (2012, 2016, 2020)
Cedar Grove Elementary School (2000, 2012, 2016, 2020)
Chevy Chase Elementary School (2008, 2012, 2016, 2020)
Clarksburg Elementary School (2008, 2012, 2016, 2020)
Darnestown Elementary School (2020)
Fox Chapel Elementary School (2016, 2020)
Galway Elementary School (2016, 2020)
Glenallan Elementary School (2016, 2020)
Highland View Elementary School (2012, 2016, 2020)
Kemp Mill Elementary School (2020)
Lakewood Elementary School (2009, 2015, 2020)
Luxmanor Elementary School (2016, 2020)
Montgomery Knolls Elementary School (2016, 2020)
Parkland Magnet Middle School (2016, 2020)
Pine Crest Elementary School (2016, 2020)
Poolesville High School (2008, 2012, 2016, 2020)
Sherwood Elementary School (2015, 2020)
Silver Creek Middle School (2020)
Stephen Knolls School (2016, 2020)
Summit Hall Elementary School (2012, 2016, 2020)
Takoma Park Elementary School (2012, 2016, 2020)
Wheaton Woods Elementary School (2020)

[Click here](#) for the list of 87 MCPS schools that currently hold MAEOE Green School certification.

To view a recognition video produced by the MCPS OEEP Program click on the link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ubyaMulKPU&feature=youtu.be>

For more information about becoming a MCPS Maryland Green School please contact the SERT Program at SERT@mcpsmd.org

For detailed information about what it means to be a Maryland Green School, please visit:

<https://maeoe.org/green-schools-and-green-centers/green-schools-program>

Don't Forget to Lock Your Dumpsters!



As we continue to work and learn remotely, remember that it's still important to recycle and reduce solid waste. We can recycle at home the same way we recycle while at school.

If you're not sure what is recyclable in Montgomery County, click here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/recycling/blue-bin-items.html>.

If you need a blue recycling bin for your residence, visit the link below to find out how to obtain one:

https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/depwebstore/subcatalog.aspx?catalog_id=1

If you're looking for some interesting recycling-related activities to do while we're all staying safe at home, check out these links:

- <https://mygreenmontgomery.org/project/conduct-a-home-waste-audit/>
- <https://www.instructables.com/id/Up-Cycle-Junk-Mail-into-Artisan-Paper/>
- <https://mygreenmontgomery.org/project/compost/>