

St. Mary's County Public Schools
Department of Capital Planning
SMECO Demand Response Program
Frequently Asked Questions

June 2017

What is the Demand Response Program?

St. Mary's County Public Schools has participated in SMECO's demand response program since 2011 and is able to curtail electricity use in 19 of its buildings to reduce energy use on very hot days when energy demand and energy costs are at their peak. (Note: due to school construction projects some eligible schools may not be included each year) This helps ensure that there is ample electricity in the community. On those days, SMECO asks participating customers to cut back on their electrical usage through a curtailment of a specified length of time, typically 3 to 6 hours. To accommodate this curtailment request, the school system can shut off equipment, run equipment less often, or adjust the temperature settings on air conditioning systems, depending on the type of facility. In addition, the 19 affected schools are asked to turn off computers, printers, lights, etc. in spaces that are not in use. The curtailment efforts that are undertaken do not prevent continued use of the facility.

What do participating schools need to do in the event of a curtailment request through the Demand Response Program?

Schools will receive an email from the Department of Capital Planning, informing them of the time frame for the curtailment efforts and requesting that all computers, printers, and lighting, that are not required for current operation, be turned off. **Minolta copier/fax/printers should not be turned off.** The Department of Maintenance will be making adjustments to controls and equipment as well. Normal operations at the school should continue. In the event that the reduced electrical load causes an issue with an on-going program, please inform the Department of Maintenance by calling them at (301)475-4256, extension 1. At the conclusion of the curtailment or if an extension of the timeframe is called, the Department of Capital Planning will issue additional information via email.

Which schools are affected by this program?

The facilities we have enrolled in this program include:

Benjamin Banneker E.S.	Green Holly E.S.	Lexington Park E.S.
Capt. Walter F Duke E.S.	Hollywood E.S.	Margaret Brent M.S.
Chopticon H.S.	Dr. James A Forrest Career & Technology Center	Park Hall E.S.
Dynard E.S.	Leonardtown E.S.	Piney Point E.S.
Esperanza M.S.	Leonardtown H.S.	Spring Ridge M.S.
Evergreen E.S.	Leonardtown M.S.	
Great Mills H.S.	Lettie Marshall Dent E.S.	

Who do I call for more information?

Questions about the Demand Response Program should be directed to Mrs. Kimberly Howe, director of the Department of Capital Planning by calling (301)475-4256, extension 6.