

Registration Form

Yes, my class is interested in forming a Green Team and helping our environment become a cleaner, greener place!

Teacher _____

School name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Best time to call _____

Email _____

Grade _____ Number of students _____

Project interest _____

Yes, we would like a visit from the King County Green Team Specialist.

Register in one of these ways:

Call 206-583-0655 and ask for the Green Team Specialist.


Email greenteam@triangleassociates.com and let us know you want to form a Green Team. Please include all the information on the registration form.

Fax the completed registration form to 206-382-0669.

Mail your registration form to King County Green Teams, c/o Triangle Associates, 811 First Avenue, #255, Seattle, WA 98104.

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Alternative Formats On Request
206-296-4466 • TTY Relay: 711
1-800-325-6165 ext. 6-4466


King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division
King Street Center, Suite 701
201 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

For Elementary School Teachers

Become a King County Green Team!



"The students have observed and learned how everything affects the environment. They learned how the environment helps them and how they can help the environment."

– Green Team teacher



 **King County**
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

What is a Green Team?

A **Green Team** is a group of students ready to take action to become environmental stewards at school, at home, or out in the community. Green Team activities can focus on reducing waste, improving recycling, or promoting sustainability.

A Green Team

- provides hands-on experience with conservation concepts.
- turns learning into action.
- lets students see the results of their choices.
- benefits both students and the environment.

Teachers

- receive advice, support, and materials.
- can sign up for classroom presentations.
- can receive mini-grant funding.
- are recognized for their efforts.



Free workshops, materials, and other resources are available to your school!

How to Become a Green Team

- 1) Think of activities that will help your class or club save natural resources and promote conservation and sustainable behaviors. Brainstorm fun ideas, or choose one or two from the list below.
- 2) Design projects for your class or club, or if you are feeling ambitious, get your whole grade or even the entire school involved!
- 3) Register your Green Team so that you can receive assistance and news about other Green Teams and become eligible to receive rewards and recognition.



"[My students] were so excited and amazed how patient action can produce such positive results. Students enjoyed creating an Earth Friendly contest for the school board to demonstrate what Earth Keepers are doing at Eagle Rock. Adult winners and participants had fun!"

– Green Team leader, Eagle Rock Multi Age School

"Our school now has half the garbage. We no longer use paper bags for breakfast. Our school is clean and is full of posters and pictures of people respecting the environment."

– First-grade teacher



Green Team Benefits: Free Resources Available to You

Assistance and Advice – If you need help thinking of ideas or planning a project, a King County Green Team Specialist is available to answer your questions or provide more information for a specific project.

Classroom Visits – If you need assistance to get your project started, our specialist is also available to come to your classroom for project workshops, free of charge, Monday-Friday. The Green Team Specialist can help design a realistic action plan that takes a group project from idea through implementation. Green Team project workshops may include starting a worm bin, conducting a litter clean-up, planning a waste-free lunch day, or improving your school recycling program.

Cleaner, Healthier Habitats and Environment – Green Team projects are a great way to get your students interested and involved in protecting our natural resources. Schools can truly benefit from the increased awareness of their students as they actively participate in improving or cleaning up their local environment.

Networking – Search for "King County Green Team" on Facebook and become a fan! Once you are a fan, you can find out what other Green Team teachers are doing and share your own successes.

Publicity and Recognition – Green Team actions are worth rewarding! Twice a year, King County recognizes and rewards Green Teams that have completed projects. Teams can earn certificates as well as prizes such as pencils, pens, or water bottles made from recycled milk jugs. Your team's projects may also be highlighted in the Class Act newsletter or on King County's website.

Web Resources – Find activity guides that provide instructions for implementing a range of waste reduction and recycling projects and activities at your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/elementaryschool/guides.asp.



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Green Team Project Ideas

Here are some ideas to get you started. Classrooms across King County have successfully completed these projects. Think up your own spin on these or other activities that promote caring for our environment, or find additional ideas at your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/elementaryschool/projects.asp.

Reduce Waste

- Start a reuse bin – Use an old cardboard box or other container to create a reuse bin for your classroom and others in your school to encourage reuse of paper scraps and one-sided paper before they go into the recycling bin.
- Plan a waste-free lunch or snack day – Encourage your Green Team, other students in the same grade level, or even the whole school to pack lunches and/or snacks with reusable containers and minimal packaging. Try this weekly or monthly and see how much less garbage there is in the lunchroom.
- Start a reusable bag project - Create a design for a reusable bag and sell the bags to raise funds for Green Team activities.
- Build a worm bin for composting food– Learn to compost food waste using a worm bin. It's a great way to introduce students to concepts of decomposition, waste reduction and recycling.

Recycle

- Improve your school recycling program – Spot-check classrooms to make sure recyclables and garbage are being separated properly. Make sure recycling bins are in a location that makes them easy to use. Start a friendly competition between classrooms for the best efforts at recycling. Give a "shout out" in morning announcements to the classrooms that are doing a great job.
- Start a lunchroom recycling program – Work with your school custodian or principal to start a lunchroom recycling program for cans, bottles, milk cartons, and even food scraps. Promote the program school-wide.

Beautify the School

- Clean up litter – Organize a one-time or regular litter pick-up on your school grounds to beautify your campus and to demonstrate the importance of having a clean urban environment.
- Grow a green garden – Start a small school garden or adopt an area of your school to restore or maintain. Learn about water conservation, composting, native plants, and safe ways to control garden pests.

Educate Others

- Educate others about conservation - Make posters, create skits or songs to share with other classes, paint a mural, share morning announcements, or create a video about waste prevention or recycling.
- Create a Green Team challenge board – Use your school bulletin board to display actions that will cut down on garbage, conserve natural resources or save energy.
- Mentor younger students- Buddy up with a younger classroom to teach the students about conservation. Share stories or do reuse projects that focus on protecting the environment.
- Bring the messages home- Do a home survey and ask families to pledge to make three conservation improvements. Have your Green Team students share their family ideas and successes.

