

King County Green Schools Program

This program provides King County schools with tools and support needed to

- initiate and expand conservation practices.
- operate environmentally efficient and responsible facilities.
- involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship.

Level One - Waste Reduction and Recycling

Program services include

- site visit to assess waste reduction and recycling practices.
- hands-on help to reduce garbage and expand recycling.
- recycling containers and signs.
- assistance educating students and staff about reducing waste and recycling.
- follow-up help to expand changes and promote successes.



Level Two – Energy Conservation

Level Three – Water Conservation

Optional

- Environmental Education
- Environmental Purchasing
- Green Building
- Hazardous Materials Management
- Litter Reduction
- Transportation Options

Recognition

Each school and district that meets program criteria receives a "We are a King County Green School" banner, certificates of recognition, and a success story on the county web site.

To Apply

Participants are selected on a first come, first served basis. Contact Dale Alekel at 206-296-8457 or dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov, or visit kingcounty.gov/greenschools.

2011-2012

Recycling and Resource Conservation School Programs



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

Printed on recycled paper – Aug11DK

For Middle and High School Students and Teachers Grades 6-12

From the King County Solid Waste Division

Workshop Features

GLE Oriented – Workshops align with GLEs for science, communications, reading, social studies, and other subjects.

Hands On – Students are engaged through hands-on activities relevant to their everyday lives.

Interactive Group Work – Students work in small groups, rotating through stations and project tasks.

Critical Thinking Skills – Students are challenged to make connections to real-world issues and think for themselves. Students apply what they learn using activity sheets, games, and quizzes.



Action Oriented – Each workshop asks students to consider how the topic relates to their lives and what steps they can take to make a difference for the environment.



Service Learning – Workshops can lead directly to service learning projects in which students apply what they learn to real projects in their schools and communities.

Flexible Class Length – Workshops last 50 minutes, but can also be extended to accommodate block periods.

Find us on the web at
www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/index.asp

*If you receive a duplicate of this mailer,
please post or pass on to a friend.*

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



King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT #14146

King County EcoConnections Workshops

– Request these FREE presentations for your classroom.

Choose up to two different workshops.

To schedule a FREE EcoConnections workshop, call 206-583-0655 or email workshops@triangleassociates.com.

Focus on Earth and Environment

Biodiversity in Our World – What is biodiversity and why is it important for survival on Earth? Students actively engage in a discussion of real-world issues such as habitat protection, population growth, and pollution. Through challenging and fun, hands-on activities, students gain a clearer understanding of our everyday effects on the planet and how our personal choices can make a difference. The high school version also incorporates the topic of climate change as it relates to biodiversity and human impact on the environment. The award-winning video “Natural Connections” is highly recommended as preparation for this workshop.

“The workshop and instructor were fantastic. This workshop satisfies the GLEs and then some. I would not have the time or resources to put together such a wonderful activity/presentation.” – High school teacher

“I used to feel that big issues like biodiversity were beyond my control. Now I know that I can help!” – Junior high student

Biospheres – How does the closed system of an ecosphere compare to Earth? Students work in pairs and observe living ecospheres to understand biotic and abiotic factors and natural cycles. Students compare an ecosphere to Earth and realize how their daily consumption and disposal habits affect the planet. They rethink their choices and explore ways to live more sustainably. For high school groups, discussion can include climate change and its sources and impacts.

“I love the different materials/activities that Biospheres provides. Going from the ecosphere activity, which is so engaging, to the real-life garbage sort keeps kids engaged and excited about what they are doing.” – Middle school teacher



Let’s Talk Trash! – How does your garbage affect natural resources, energy, and climate change? Students discover the connections by participating in a “talk show” hosted by the presenter. Students work in small teams and become experts on how recycling and waste prevention help save landfill space, conserve natural resources, and even reduce the factors that contribute to climate change. They use the skills of debate and persuasive argument and make a connection between concept and action. An optional pre-workshop home or classroom audit enables students to apply their ideas and solutions to their own school and community.

“The workshop got the students talking about changes that could be made on campus in regard to recycling.” – High school teacher

“This workshop truly made me more environmentally aware.” – Middle school student

Focus on Consumption and Sustainability

Consumption Junction – How do our lifestyles affect the quality of the Earth’s environment? Through studying the life cycle of an aluminum can from its bauxite source to the recycling bin, students learn about the time, energy, and natural resources that are used to make an everyday product, the resulting environmental impacts, and how we can limit consumption to create a more sustainable future. Combine this workshop with Earth Impact or Think Twice for a complete unit.

“Kids are interested and excited about learning about the environment, problems and things THEY can do to have an effect.”

– Middle school teacher

Earth Impact: Overconsumption or Sustainability? – How and why do we choose what to buy and what impact do these choices have on our planet? Rotating through stations that explore advertising, packaging, and our ecological footprint, students recognize the impacts their choices have on the environment and learn how to choose more sustainable products.



Students use critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in order to make informed decisions. The high school version includes a more in-depth look at what sustainability is and the different ways to adopt a sustainable lifestyle. Combine this workshop with Consumption Junction or Think Twice for a complete unit.

“The presenter] was incredibly flexible and able to modify instruction to meet the needs of the students she was teaching. Great work!”

– Middle school teacher

“I liked how the lesson was so hands-on. That really helped to get the information to stick.”

– High school student

Think Twice – This discussion-based workshop focuses on the concept of product stewardship, in which responsibility for the environmental effects of a product is considered at all stages of its life cycle. Students learn the importance of making conscious, sustainable choices as they discover that their consumption choices may have unintended effects on the environment and human health. Students explore how they can “think twice” by discussing examples of how their peers around the country are making a difference. This advanced workshop draws on critical-thinking skills as it explores the use of popular teen products such as cell phones, iPods, and computers. Earth Impact or Consumption Junction is recommended as a prerequisite for this workshop.

– These workshops add to my science instruction and bring the “real” world into my classroom. – Middle school teacher

– I will be more careful about how my lifestyle affects the environment. – High school student

Workshop Registration

Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Register by calling 206-583-0655 or email workshops@triangleassociates.com.

Request Teach: Programs for Educators, an annotated list of programs and services for teachers offered by King County. Call 206-296-4353.

For more information on these and other programs, visit your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/index.asp.



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Education

Hazards on the Homefront Workshop – This teacher workshop provides you with the information you need to teach your students about hazardous products in the home and their effects on human health and the environment. At the workshop, you’ll receive everything you need to teach this topic, including a free curriculum guide with fun, adaptable lesson plans, overheads, and other classroom materials. The recently updated guide is aligned with the new science standards as well as those for health and fitness and other subjects. Call 206-583-0655 or visit your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/hazwaste.asp.

HHW Mini-Grant – Grants in amounts ranging from \$50–\$500 are available for teachers who have participated in the Hazards on the Homefront workshop and who would like to complete an HHW project. Meet five simple guidelines and we’ll send you the grant money! Call 206-583-0655 or visit your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/minigrants.asp.

Environmental Project Support

To request project support, contact a Green Team Specialist at 206-583-0655, or email greenteam@triangleassociates.com.

Project Support and Green Teams – Is your class or environmental club ready to move from classroom learning to environmental action? A Green Team is a group of students ready to take action to become environmental stewards at school, at home, or in the community. Typical school projects include improving or expanding school recycling programs, stenciling storm drains, planting native gardens, or educating peers or younger students about environmental topics. A Green Team specialist will provide support via email or phone, or can even visit with your group at your school. Or choose a Green Team campaign to carry out at your school. Campaigns cover a variety of topics and provide a step-by-step guide to lead your group from idea to implementation. They are available online at your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/secondaryschool/gtworkshops.asp. Green Teams that complete projects are eligible to win prizes and recognition.

Lunchroom Program – What’s 4 R Lunch? – Is your Green Team organizing a kick-off week to improve recycling at your school? Is your Spirit Week focused on going green? Then you can host “What’s 4 R Lunch?” This is a fun and dynamic way to encourage the whole student body to practice correct recycling (or composting) in their very own lunchroom. A “game show host” will bring quick, fun activities for students to play while they eat, quiz students on the spot, and award prizes. The event is customized to reinforce your school’s particular program. Students can see first-hand how their lunchroom habits and disposal choices have an impact, and realize that they can make a difference each day within their school. Schools participating in the King County Green Schools have priority for and are encouraged to receive this program.



“What’s 4 R Lunch was the perfect addition to Earth Week.”

– Middle school student

Green Team Mini-Grants – King County Solid Waste Division offers mini-grants in amounts up to \$500 to support educational activities related to waste reduction, recycling, and resource conservation. Applying is quick and easy. Call 206-583-0655 for an application.

All workshops have been updated to relate to current issues and fit in with secondary GLEs. Workshops are adapted for grade level.

If you are a Green School, registering as a Green Team is the perfect way to involve students in reaching your school’s goals.