



Albert Talley High School

Note: This school was called Secondary Learning Center until fall 2017.

School district: Renton

School location: Unincorporated King County

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2011

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2014

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- By April 2014, the school had increased its recycling rate to 81%, compared to a 20% rate in February 2013.
- In 2013, the school began to collect recyclable materials in its lunchroom, and recycling bins were located next to garbage bins in each classroom and office.
- In its lunchroom, kitchen, and culinary arts program, the school piloted collection of organics, including food scraps and other compostable materials.
- The school reduced its monthly garbage volume from 33.6 cubic yards to 16.8 cubic yards, and increased its monthly recycling volume from 16.8 cubic yards to 67.2 cubic yards. In addition, three 96-gallon compost carts were filled every week with compostable materials from the pilot.
- The student Green Team created 3-dimensional lunchroom posters with actual items attached to help students sort materials, and the team also monitored lunchroom garbage, recycling, and composting bins to ensure correct sorting.
- Waste prevention methods included the following.
 - To reduce wasted food, a lunchroom food share table was set up for unopened packaged foods. Students could take items others placed there.
 - Plastic-wrapped, single-use plastic utensils and straws were replaced with unwrapped plastic utensils and straws.
 - Staff placed unused supplies in a supply room for use by other staff.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- To limit paper hand-outs and encourage double-sided copies, the school set a limit of 500 copies maximum per month per staff member. The school also reduced paper use by communicating with families and staff electronically.
- In 2013, teacher Cara Mothersbaugh's Sustainable Science class participated in a King County workshop where students created a video to air during homeroom to educate students about the benefits of reducing waste and recycling and share information about what can be recycled.