



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Ardmore Elementary School

School district: Bellevue

School location: Bellevue

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2010

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in April 2011

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in April 2012

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Ardmore created a Green Team comprised of staff, students, administration and interested parent volunteers.
- In 2009 and 2010, thanks to new lunchroom conservation practices and a school-wide emphasis on improving recycling and reuse habits, the school reached a recycling rate of 57%.
- Ardmore increased lunchroom recycling by 32% by recycling approximately 50 gallons of milk cartons, plastic bottles and aluminum cans each day. By recycling these materials and stacking their lunch trays, lunchroom garbage volume was reduced by 80% or 390 gallons per day.
- The PTA worked with the Green Team to help implement recycling in the lunchroom. Parents also worked on limiting book order handouts and catalogs to reduce paper use.
- Students made classroom presentations about recycling and waste reduction.
- The student council created posters about recycling.



A student creates a drawing to promote recycling at Ardmore



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- Students placed stickers on recycling containers listing what can and can't be recycled.
- During library time, the school librarian taught students about reuse and recycling.
- The district's resource conservation manager made a presentation about recycling at a PTA meeting.
- In 2010-11, with assistance from City of Bellevue, students began collecting cafeteria food scraps and food soiled paper to be sent to Cedar Grove Composting facility.
- A student and parent group monitored cafeteria stations and conducted an outreach campaign.
- The school librarian made presentations about waste reduction and recycling to all of her classes and three third grade classes participated in "healthy habitat" workshops.
- During 2010-11, the school reduced garbage volume from 16 cubic yards to 8 cubic yards per week and its recycling rate rose to 62%.
- During 2011-12, the school increased its recycling rate to 64% by reducing waste and by collecting recyclable and compostable materials.
- Four classes participated in the City of Bellevue's "Rethink and Reuse" workshop.
- The entire school participated in the City of Bellevue's resource conservation assembly.
- The student green team wears gloves and aprons to assist with recycling in the cafeteria at lunch.
- The student Green Team made recycling posters and placed them throughout the lunchroom.
- The lead green team teacher distributed stickers to students who finished their milk during multiple lunch periods.



Lunchroom recycling and food scrap bins



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students posted signs near lights and electrical equipment to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- The principal sent information to staff about the school's energy use via email and to parents via newsletter.
- Staff made morning announcements about conserving energy.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Fourth-grade classes participated in Nature Vision's healthy water systems workshop.
- To raise awareness about conserving water at school and at home, morning announcements were submitted to the front office and read to the school.
- Students put up posters throughout the school to promote water conservation.
- Students placed "turn water off" stickers by sinks throughout the school.
- Four fourth-grade classes participated in Nature Vision's "Healthy Water Systems" workshop.
- Classes received the "Water Cycle Game."
- Students went on a field trip to the local watershed.