



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Arrowhead Elementary School

School District: Northshore

School Location: Kenmore

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: Oct. 2007

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2009

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



Reusable trays replaced disposable polystyrene trays. After lunch, students at Arrowhead help to stack reusable trays.

Waste reduction and recycling (Level One)

- Arrowhead Elementary reduced garbage by 25 percent and established a recycling rate of 40 percent and then increased the rate to 49 percent.
- Arrowhead students attended a school-wide assembly in which the student council presented information on recycling and the four Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, and re-think.
- The student council made posters and a banner about recycling.
- Teams of parent volunteers and student council members gave in-class demonstrations on correct sorting.
- Principal Pete Misner asked the district to replace the disposable polystyrene lunch trays with durable, reusable trays. The district purchased durable trays and provided staff hours to wash them. Student volunteers helped to collect the trays from each classroom.
- The Arrowhead team hosted a one-day waste free lunch promotion and realized a 30 percent reduction in garbage on that day. This event was continued each year.
- To reduce paper use, Arrowhead started using and promoting an online newsletter.
- Parent volunteers integrated conservation practices into PTA meetings by printing fewer handouts and using durable cups.
- Teacher Scott's first-grade class collected food scraps and other compostable materials such as napkins.

Energy conservation (Level Two)

- From 2008 - 2011, Arrowhead reduced its utility cost by 10 percent, saving \$4,500 annually.
- Signs were posted near light switches as a reminder to turn off lights when not in use.
- Teachers closed blinds and turned off classroom electronics at the end of each day to conserve energy.
- The school unplugged unused refrigerators over the summer to reduce unnecessary energy use.
- With help from the district resource conservation manager, the after-school coordinators worked to reduce energy by centralizing after-school activities in a few common areas.



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Litter reduction

Arrowhead organized a school-wide litter clean up event. Teachers, parents, and students picked up trash around campus and were recognized at an end-of-school-year assembly.

Awards

- Arrowhead received the Efficient School Energy Star Award.
- Principal, Pete Misner, won a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2009 for leading the school's conservation practices and Green Schools Program achievements.