



Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School

School district: Auburn

School location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: January 2012

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2012

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2013

Level Three of the Green School Program:
Achieved in May 2017

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Arthur Jacobsen maintained a 61% recycling rate as a result of:
 - School-wide waste reduction strategies, including replacing disposable trays and utensils with durable, reusable trays and utensils.
 - Recycling in classrooms and offices.
 - Collection of organics, including food scraps and other compostable materials, for transport to a regional composting facility.
- The school reduced the size of its outdoor garbage dumpster, thus decreasing the cost of garbage disposal.
- A group of 25 Green Team students completed a waste composition analysis by sorting lunch garbage to identify what items could be recycled and composted.
- The Green Team made presentations about recycling and composting practices to all classrooms.
- With assistance from its district resource conservation manager, the school started milk carton recycling and food scrap collection at both breakfast and lunch. The Green Team monitored breakfast and lunch recycling stations for the first month of the program.



Arthur Jacobsen staff and student Green Team receiving its Green Schools recognition banner in 2021



- In 2012-2013, the school began to collect classroom paper towels to add to other compostable materials collected and transported to a composting facility.
- New signs were posted near waste sorting stations. The signs included actual examples of recyclable materials to help students sort correctly.
- The fifth-grade Green Team students trained third- and fourth-grade volunteers as well as fellow fifth-grade volunteers so the school would have recycling monitors on an ongoing basis.
- The school PTA collected cell phones to be recycled.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Energy conservation tips were posted in the school newsletter.
- To their list of regular student jobs, teachers added classroom computer shut down, closing blinds, and turning off lights after school.
- The Green Team posted signs from the Green Schools Program to remind students and staff to turn off lights when they are not needed.
- The school librarian periodically shared reminders about how to use energy-efficient modes for smart boards and projectors.
- Occupancy sensors were installed as part of district energy-efficient lighting upgrades.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Water conservation and water pollution prevention information were shared in morning announcements.
- Students signed pledges to conserve water.
- The Green Team engaged in “drip patrol” to report leaking faucets, running or leaking toilets, standing water, etc. to maintenance staff so repairs could be made.

