



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Beaver Lake Middle School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Issaquah

Began Participating in the Green Schools Program:
June 2009

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

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

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved in May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Beaver Lake Middle School first achieved a 64% recycling rate, and then increased its recycling rate to 89% in 2018-19.
- In 2013-14, Beaver Lake began collecting compostable materials in its lunchroom. Along with food scraps, approximately 45 pizza boxes were collected daily in the cafeteria. All compostable materials collected by the school were sent to a regional composting facility.
- In 2015, a Green Schools Program representative provided a “What’s 4 Lunch” presentation at each school lunch period to teach students about reducing waste, recycling, and composting.



The student Green Team learned about salmon fry at Issaquah Fish Hatchery.



The student Green Team toured the Issaquah Fish Hatchery to learn about water quality.



Student Green Team members removed invasive English Ivy to protect trees on the school campus.



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- In April 2015, the school dedicated each day during Earth Week to promote specific conservation actions such as recycling, reducing waste, conserving energy, and conserving water.
- In 2014-15, staff monitored lunchroom sorting stations and helped students sort lunch waste.
- For Earth Day 2015, the school participated in the district-wide Waste-Free Lunch Challenge.
- The student-led Beaver Lake Environmental Education Club (BEE Club) received training from King County on waste reduction, recycling, and composting.
- The BEE Club created signs as well as video and intercom announcements to promote recycling and address common questions about recycling.
- The school organized a Zero Waste locker clean-out in the spring so unwanted materials from lockers were recycled or donated.
- Paper use was reduced by sending newsletters and fliers electronically.
- The staff workroom instituted a reuse station for used office supplies.
- Beaver Lake, along with all schools in Issaquah School District, eliminated drinking straws and polystyrene trays.
- The lunchroom switched to a combination of durable trays and compostable paper trays, which were used at the end of each lunch period when the school's supply of durable trays had been depleted.
- The Green Team updated posters placed above or on collection bins, estimated the lunchroom recycling rate, and announced results at lunchtime.



Student Green Team members tested water quality at Beaver Lake Park.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The BEE Club completed energy audits throughout the school to gather data such as when lights were being left on in unoccupied rooms.
- The BEE Club advisor presented a PowerPoint about energy conservation during a staff meeting to share successes and student energy audit results and to brainstorm ways the school can continue to improve.



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- During Green Week in April 2015, staff and students participated in Blackout Day by turning off lights and using daylight to conserve energy.
- The school's vending machine lights were permanently turned off.
- Staff and students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting the thermostat settings.
- Energy conservation signs from the Green Schools Program were posted on light switches and electronics to remind staff and students to turn them off when they were not needed.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- While continuing its waste reduction and recycling practices, the school learned about the importance of water conservation and how to conserve water.
- The school's Green Team looked for leaky faucets before a team came in to fix leaks and install aerators on faucets to conserve water.
- Hot water and circulation pumps were turned off during school breaks.
- Signs about water conservation were placed by all non-automatic shut off faucets.
- The Green Team completed a habitat restoration project at Lake Sammamish State Park and removed invasive English ivy from school grounds. Removing invasive species allowed native plants which generally need less water to thrive.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Beaver Lake was recognized as a Sustaining Green School for maintaining and building on its Level One through Level Three practices. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The student Green Team created a native plant book after learning about native and invasive plant species.
- Team members completed a water conservation campaign with educational posters about water use and how to conserve water. The team created a water use trivia game for students to play during lunchtime.



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Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- The Green Team created and distributed second chance paper boxes to classrooms for paper used only on one side, then created signs and posters to encourage students to use the blank or back sides of paper.
- For cafeteria sorting stations, the Green Team created 3-dimensional posters with actual items attached, and built structures to place over waste and recycling bins so the posters could be hung from the structure above each bin.
- The Green Team removed invasive species and planted new trees on school grounds to replace the trees which invasive species had impacted.