

## Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

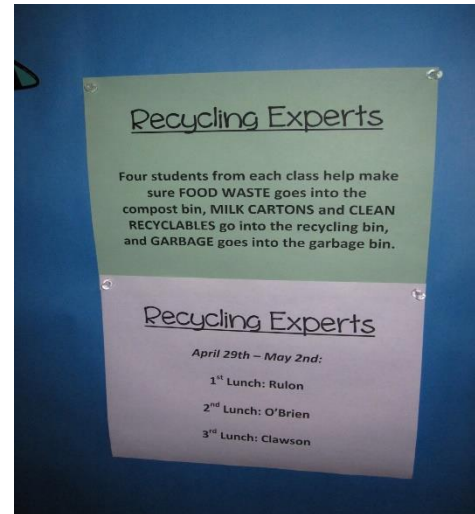
**School district:** Lake Washington  
**School location:** Kirkland

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** October 2012

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2013

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school maintained a recycling rate of 54% in 2012-13.
- The school's Kids First News TV broadcast shared waste reduction reminders monthly.
- Fourth-grade students served as Recycling Heroes to help younger classes and empty classroom recycling bins into larger indoor recycling bins.
- Students created signs illustrating what items go into each container at lunch.
- Students helped their peers sort compostable and recyclable materials into the correct lunchroom bins, resulting in less contamination and a cleaner cafeteria.
- Custodian Ernie Atwill helped collect lunchroom recyclable and compostable materials.
- The lunchroom switched from disposable to durable trays and utensils in 2012.
- The Green Team held a No Ziploc Day to encourage reusable containers for lunches from home. On that day, students reduced plastic bag waste by 50 percent.
- The school reduced its paper use by 70,000 sheets of paper in 2012-13 by switching from paper to electronic newsletters sent by email. Teachers used scratch paper notepads, and Green Team students created reuse boxes for one-sided paper in each classroom.



Sign posted every week listing student Recycling Experts who helped fellow students sort correctly after lunch.



## **Other conservation and education actions**

- Students learned about plant growth by planting garlic cloves and lentils in the school's greenhouse.
- Students and parents received information about the harmful effects of car idling outside the school. In spring 2013, Green Team students tracked the average number of seconds each car spent idling.