



Briarwood Elementary School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Renton

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in December 2011

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

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

Sustaining Green School 2015-16:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
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)

- Briarwood achieved a recycling rate of 53% by collecting recyclable and compostable materials in classrooms, offices, staffroom, and cafeteria.
- In 2014-15, students created a skit and a video about recycling and waste reduction, including using durable water bottles and both sides of paper. Presentations were shared in an all-school assembly, classrooms, and cafeteria.
- Third- and fourth-grade Go Green Team cafeteria monitors were trained to help fellow students sort recyclable and compostable materials, then regularly monitored food scrap, recycling, and garbage bins.



Students monitor sorting stations in Briarwood's cafeteria.



Students sort recyclable materials, with guidance from monitors.



Student monitors ready to help with cafeteria recycling.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Signs were posted in the cafeteria to show which items can be composted and recycled, and which items should be placed in garbage bins.
- Students placed stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled on recycling bins throughout the school.
- Along with all schools in Issaquah School District, Briarwood replaced plastic wrapped utensils with unwrapped utensils and eliminated drinking straws.
- The school used durable trays that were washed and reused.
- School administration encouraged staff to reduce paper use by making double-sided copies, using email for communication, and sending newsletters and parent information electronically.
- A crayon recycling bin was set up in the staff workroom, and the crayons were collected monthly by a Briarwood parent who used them to make new crayons.
- Paper reuse trays were placed in all classrooms for paper only used on one side, so students could use the blank sides for notes.
- In 2014, Briarwood held its first Waste-Free Wednesday lunch. Student Green Team members made presentations during lunch on how to reduce food waste and garbage.
- A refrigerated bin was added to the lunchroom salad bar for students to place unwanted, unopened packaged items from the school lunch program. The items were distributed as snacks to students in the before- and after-school programs.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Stickers and signs from the Green Schools Program were placed on light switches and electronic equipment to remind students and staff to turn them off when they are not needed.
- Green Team members researched energy conservation facts and tips, and shared them during morning announcements and on the school's website.
- Team members calculated their personal carbon footprints, and developed plans for how they could reduce their footprint at home and school.
- After-school activities were centralized into specific areas to help reduce energy use in unoccupied areas of the building.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The Green Team shared water conservation facts in morning video announcements, posted reminders about conserving water next to each school sink, audited school faucets for leaks and water flow rates, and informed custodians about automatic faucets that took significantly longer to turn off.
- Team members pledged to conserve water by taking shorter showers and turning off faucets when soaping their hands and brushing teeth.
- Students planted and maintained a student garden.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Briarwood Elementary sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- The Green Schools Program trained the student Green Team on how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- The Green Team worked in coordination with Issaquah School District to eliminate pesticide use in the school's garden.
- Monthly conservation tips and reminders were sent by email to all staff.
- Briarwood promoted waste-free lunches once each month, then expanded to weekly waste-free Wednesdays. Green Team students made morning announcements and created and performed skits to promote waste-free practices such as using durable containers to pack lunches from home and not wasting food. The lunchroom generated less than one pound of trash at the February 2016 waste-free lunch.
- In December 2015, the school received King County's Earth Challenge assembly and classroom workshops.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The student Green Team was trained by the Green Schools Program about waste reduction, recycling, and composting.



King County Green Schools Program

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Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Morning announcements were made about ways to prevent waste.
- Energy conservation tips were posted on the school's Go Green webpage, and water conservation signs were placed by all sinks.
- The student Green Team picked up litter around the school.
- Students maintained a school garden that conserved water, and Girl Scouts helped weed and prepare the garden.
- Aerators were placed on faucets throughout the school.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- In its cafeteria, the school switched from disposable to durable, reusable utensils.
- Green Team members completed a coin drive in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund to help save the arctic fox.
- Students visited Liberty High School to hear Sustainability Talks about food systems, food waste, and how to reduce wasted food.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Go Green Team members met regularly throughout the school year to focus on conservation efforts.
- A Green Schools Program representative trained Go Green Team students on how to help their peers sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- To reduce energy use, the school building was designed and built with day lighting and natural ventilation.