



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Canyon Creek Elementary School

**School district:** Northshore

**School location:** Bothell

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

November 2010

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2011

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Canyon Creek increased its recycling rate from 22% to 50%.
- To achieve this, the school improved classroom recycling and started to recycle empty bottles and milk cartons at lunch.
- School staff placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can and can't be recycled on classroom and lunchroom recycling bins.
- Sixth-grade students designed a presentation about waste reduction and recycling and shared it with all classrooms in the school. The students also volunteered their recess time to monitor lunchroom recycling bins and help other students understand what materials can be recycled. They created posters and videos to explain what materials can be recycled.
- Sixth-grade students studied sustainability and ecological footprints. They met the challenge of reducing the school's ecological footprint by reducing waste and recycling.



Sixth grade student volunteers help with recycling in their lunchroom.

### Comment

"It's been fantastic to see our sixth graders jump in and.... help students sort materials, take recycling out to the large recycle bin, and even weigh the daily liquid waste to track the effectiveness of waste reduction efforts." - **Chris Brush, sixth-grade teacher**