



Career Academy at Truman High School

School district: Federal Way

School location: Federal Way

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2011

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Career Academy recycled 58% of its solid waste.
- Thanks to increased collection of recyclable and compostable materials, the school saved \$1,800 annually by reducing its 8-yard garbage dumpster to a 6-yard dumpster.
- The school saved an additional \$1,720 after exploring different recycling collection services and selecting a new recycling hauler, realizing a total of \$2,800 in cost savings in 2011-12.
- Students made signs to hang above each lunchroom bin to educate students about what can and can't be recycled and composted.
- Students received King County's classroom presentations.
- Bins for compostable materials were added to staff eating areas to reduce the amount of food waste going to the landfill.
- Through a district initiative, the school eliminated the use of lunchroom straws.
- Food from edible campus gardens maintained by students and other volunteers was donated to senior centers, homeless shelters, and other community organizations.
- To reduce garbage and increase recycling, Career Academy staff coordinated with the EX3 Teen Center and Head Start Preschool that share garbage and recycling dumpsters with the school.
 - Head Start kitchen staff, teachers, and students received in-person education on what can and can't be collected for composting.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Composting began in both the Head Start kitchen and classroom with one collection container and another was quickly added to accommodate all of Head Start's compostable materials.
- The EX3 Teen Center staff were mentored by Career Academy staff to promote increased recycling in their building.

Award

Ken Lao, custodian, received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2012.