



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Carnation Elementary School

School district: Riverview

School location: Carnation

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
November 2008

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2009

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2011

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

Sustaining Green School recognition

- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2021-22
- 2022-23

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Carnation Elementary achieved a 47% recycling rate in 2009, and increased its rate to 54% in 2018-19.
- Recycling bins were placed in each classroom for paper and empty milk cartons, bottles, and aluminum cans.
- Recycling stickers showing what can be recycled were placed on all recycling bins.
- The Green Team created and showed the entire school a video to promote recycling and waste reduction.



Earth Hero at School Award
Teacher Elizabeth Wing and her students receive the King County award in April 2011



Carnation students plant trees along Snoqualmie River



Carnation students test water



Green Team students celebrate rain gardens as a solution to water pollution



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- Carnation's third-grade Green Team helped eliminate unwanted newspaper subscriptions and mail, created paper reuse trays for each classroom, and educated classmates about reducing waste.
- Students created and hung 3-dimensional posters that included examples of recyclable materials.
- Students participated in recycling presentations around the community.
- Materials were reused for art projects in classrooms.
- The school hosted the King County school assembly program about waste reduction and recycling.
- The Green Team reminded students and staff of proper waste sorting practices by displaying creative signage, making PA announcements, placing monitors at waste stations, and planning schoolwide assemblies.
- In winter 2018, Carnation was awarded a grant for installation of water bottle filling stations to reduce waste from disposable plastic bottles. A second grant was awarded for aluminum water bottles distributed at the school walkathon.
- Students created a "Carnation Elementary Tiger Pledge" based on the 4Rs – Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – and on conservation of electricity and water.



Environmental Club students present an assembly about food scrap collection. Food scraps collected at school were donated to a local pig farm.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In 2014-15, the school placed "turn off lights when leaving room" and "turn off equipment when not in use" signs throughout the school, including classrooms.
- Students presented energy conservation information to the school board.
- The Green Team created and presented skits to educate students and staff members about energy conservation. The skits and "Energy Commercials" were presented throughout the school year during lunches.
- Students worked with Oxbow Farm to study and analyze how the school's energy conservation practices impacted salmon in the Snoqualmie River. Students helped interpret for Spanish speaking families during the project.
- In each classroom, students took turns being "Technology Engineers" to check areas of the school for energy conservation practices.



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Water Conservation (Level Three)

- To educate students and staff about water conservation and water pollution prevention, students led skits and made announcements during lunch.
- Students studied the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed and developed skits, posters, and bulletin board displays about protecting the local watershed.
- Students annually partnered with the Snoqualmie Tribe and other local watershed organizations to study the health of the Snoqualmie River and promote conservation in Tolt River watershed.
- Third-grade students learned about water sources in different parts of the world.
- Teachers were asked to conserve water in their classrooms. Reminders about water conservation were posted near all sinks.
- Students worked with Nature Vision to test the Snoqualmie River for temperature, PH levels, and oxygen. Students looked for water insects that indicate river health. Photos about the project were displayed on a bulletin board.
- Head custodian Rick Harstad checked regularly for water leaks.
- Brooms or rakes were used to clean school grounds instead of pressure washing or hosing down sidewalks and concrete areas.
- When old fixtures and equipment needed to be replaced, low-flow and water efficient models were purchased.
- Drought-tolerant plants and shrubs were planted on school grounds.
- During 2017-18, the school installed a rain garden to reduce water pollution. Signs in the garden taught students about native and drought resistant plants.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Carnation Elementary School 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.



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Sustaining Green School 2014-15

The school held a warm clothing drive to show students how items can be reused for a good cause. Boxes of used clothing were collected from classrooms and students graphed how many items were collected each day. Students collected over 700 items in three days.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- At the beginning of the year, every student participated in a workshop about the importance of water conservation.
- The importance of clean and healthy water both locally and globally was included in curriculum.
- Teacher Elizabeth Wing organized education units on organic farming, salmon, and a Passport to Sustainability project on state standards for sustainability.
- Students created posters about healthy rivers based on evidence the students collected at local rivers. The posters emphasized the importance of healthy riparian zones for migrating salmon and were shared at STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) night which was attended by the entire school community.
- Intermediate grades enhanced their science curriculum by studying the local watershed through field excursions where students walked to local rivers and creeks and recorded healthy and non-healthy riparian zones.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Messages encouraging water conservation at home, at school, and in the community were shared with parents and students via the school's teaching blog in conjunction with this year's Sustaining Green School project.
- The Snoqualmie Tribe teamed with students from Carnation Elementary to plant trees along the Snoqualmie River by Fall City Park.
- The Green Team initiated a Community Rain Garden campaign which culminated in a Rain Garden/Water Pollution Prevention booth at STEM Night in April 2017. The campaign was promoted through school announcements,



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parent newsletters, teaching blogs, and student-made posters. The Green Team partnered with Snoqualmie Stewards who provided the community with educational and practical resources to plant rain gardens at their homes, schools, and local businesses.

- Green Team members created signs to encourage water conservation at drinking fountains.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

Since the school does not have access to collection services for compostable materials, the Green Team collaborated with community partners to find creative alternatives to reduce food waste. During fall 2017, the school began collecting leftover food scraps for donation to a pig farm. To prepare students and staff for food scrap collection, Green Team students encouraged proper food waste sorting in theatrical assemblies, by monitoring waste stations, and on bulletin board displays.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Administrators reminded staff members to follow energy conservation and practices before weekends and school breaks.
- The school encouraged students to join the Environmental Club to help with Green School goals.
- The Environmental Club created a bulletin board outside the lunchroom to share facts and tips about waste reduction and recycling. The club also displayed the Tiger Conservation Pledge to encourage students to reduce waste and conserve energy and water.
- The Environmental Club initiated a Waste Free Lunch campaign:
 - Students researched environmental issues related to waste and alternatives to disposable items and the cost of alternatives.
 - Students promoted the campaign by sharing the cost benefits of using reusable instead of disposable items.



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- Students encouraged school-wide participation in the waste-free practices by making signs, continuing to monitor lunchroom waste stations and performing a skit on how to pack a waste free lunch.
- The cafeteria replaced disposable utensils with durable, reusable utensils.
- Custodial and maintenance staffs managed the onsite rain garden.
- To reduce water use and encourage students to use reusable water bottles, the school installed water bottle filling stations with water conservation facts posted next to them.

Sustaining Green School 2021-22

- Students used reusable hand towels instead of paper towels in their classrooms to reduce waste.
- Students upcycled broken crayons by melting them and creating a new rainbow crayon.
- Green Team collected and sent used markers, pens, highlighters, dry erase markers and sharpies to ColorCycle recycle program.
- A scrap/reuse paper bins were provided in classrooms and workrooms for students and teachers use.
- The school communicated with families electronically and teacher assigned online assignments via Teams/Seesaw to reduce the use of paper.
- Green Team raised awareness about recycle, reuse, and reduce in the cafeteria by creating posters and videos for students and staff.
- Students created a litter club and organized litter pick-up groups at recess.
- The school raised salmon, set up livestream camera, and Padlet for students to learn about the salmon's life cycle.
- Green Team collaborated with the Snoqualmie Tribe and other groups to implement the second rain garden at school. The students participated in the designing process of the rain garden.
- Green Team helped the school reach out to local farms and Nature Vision organization to bring back composting.



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Sustaining Green School 2022-23

- King County led an assembly about keeping the planet healthy and how to sort trash and recyclable materials.
- At the end of the assembly, the Green Team advisors invited students in grades 2 and 3 to fill out a form and have it signed by their parents/guardians. Over 40 students joined the team.
- Throughout the year, the Green Team created posters to keep the school informed about team activities, and the student-run newsletter included a Green Team Update each month.
- Recycling continued in each classroom and in the lunchroom, and the school continued to collect used markers and crayons to be recycled.
- To reduce waste, the school used durable lunch trays, washable towels were used in classrooms for hand drying and cleaning, and students filled their reusable water bottles at the water hydration stations.
- The student Green Team planned and conducted an assembly to teach about the school's waste reduction and recycling practices.
- Motion sensor lighting in all rooms automatically turned off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- The Green Team helped plan a second school raingarden and a native plant science garden which will replace a section of lawn. Students researched native plants, learned about the local ecosystem, had a guest speaker from Nature Vision teach about raingardens, and dug up invasive grasses.

Awards

- Carnation Elementary received the U.S. Green Ribbon School award in 2018.
- Teacher Elizabeth Wing received King County Earth Heroes at School awards in 2011 and 2016.