

## Cedar Trails Elementary School

**School district:** Issaquah

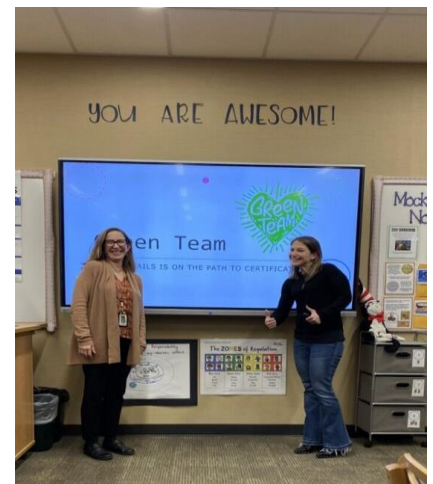
**School location:** Sammamish

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** February 2022

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2023

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Cedar Trails Elementary achieved a 61% recycling rate, thanks to waste prevention practices and school-wide collection of recyclable and organics, including food scraps and other compostable materials.
- With leadership from principal Tera Coyle, second-grade teacher Tami Foos, teacher Karen DeBellis, and lead custodian Dave Holbrook, all staff were informed about the school's participation in the Green Schools Program and asked to support conservation practices. Staff Green Team members presented to PTSA about the Green Schools Program. PTSA fully supported school conservation goals.
- Student Council members visited each class to talk about the new classroom organics collection buckets for food scraps and other compostable materials, and to remind them what materials belong in recycling and garbage bins.
- Students were trained to monitor cafeteria sorting stations at each lunch and to help fellow students sort correctly. Signs from the Green Schools Program were posted on or above each bin to show how to sort.
- Staff created a Green Team bulletin board to show monthly cubic yards of garbage, recyclables, and organics and how volumes changed over the year. Monthly updates were shared with families in teacher newsletters. A Teams page was set up to share activities, successes, and photos.



Teacher Green Team leaders present to PTSA about Green Schools goals.



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- School cleaning products were non-toxic. Instead of bringing in their own cleaning supplies, teachers asked the custodian for cleaning products when needed.
- Food waste decreased, thanks to several practices.
  - Lunch orders were submitted in the morning to help kitchen staff prepare an accurate amount of food for the daily lunch.
  - In the lunchroom, paraeducators and custodians reminded students to take what they will eat and to focus on eating before recess.
  - A lunchroom food share bin was set up for unopened, packaged foods from the lunch program. Students helped themselves to share bin items.
  - Students were allowed to walk around during recess with their snacks.
  - Teachers offered snacks in classrooms to allow students more time to eat.
- Other waste prevention practices included:
  - Reusable trays and bulk condiment dispensers in the lunchroom.
  - A water bottle filling station for refilling reusable water bottles.
  - Laminated hall passes, tardy passes, and decorations for reuse.
  - Reusable plates, utensils, and cups in the staffroom and at events.
  - Paper trays for paper used only on one side in the staff workroom and some classrooms so blank sides could be used.
  - Workroom printers set to double-sided copies.
  - Electronic newsletters, as well as classroom activities and forms completed with whiteboards or computers, reduced paper printouts.
- To encourage waste prevention, staff Green Team leaders and Student Council held a **Trash Talk** competition to see which lunch period produced the least amount of garbage, recyclables, and organics in a week. A PowerPoint was created and shared to educate students about disposable versus reusable items. Winners were recognized as Trash Warriors and announced over the intercom and in school newsletters.

