



## Cedar Valley Elementary School

**School district:** Kent

**School location:** Covington

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** December 2011

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in April 2012

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- The recycling rate at Cedar Valley Elementary increased from 22% in December 2011 to 40% in April 2012. As a result, money was saved by reducing garbage collection frequency from twice per week to once per week.
- To increase its recycling rate, the school improved classroom recycling and started lunchroom recycling of empty milk cartons.
- Students were taught to empty leftover milk from milk cartons and to place them in lunchroom recycling bins.
- Custodian Doug Reed supported school recycling efforts by assisting with lunchtime milk carton recycling and monitoring outdoor collection containers.
- Cedar Valley regularly promoted waste reduction and recycling practices through student announcements, staff bulletins, and family newsletters.
- A recycling bin was placed in the staff room and staff was encouraged to recycle.
- To reduce paper use, staff bulletins were sent electronically, and staff was asked to save them electronically rather than print them.