



Chautauqua Elementary School

School district: Vashon Island

School location: Vashon Island

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: June 2016

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2017

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2018

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Chautauqua Elementary reached and maintained a recycling rate of 49 percent.
- The school established a Green Team of 25 fourth- and fifth-grade students.
- The Green Team:
 - Created a video highlighting recycling and waste reduction practices.
 - Created 3-dimensional posters with actual lunchroom items glued to them to show what can and cannot be recycled and composted.
 - Conducted a promotional campaign via announcements and posters to encourage students to limit paper towel use.
 - Created badges to give to students who sorted their waste correctly.
 - Participated in the school's Earth Day Procession of the Green Team, carrying signs displaying messages about their progress and successes.
- To reduce waste, the school used reusable lunch trays and utensils.
- The school custodian monitored lunchroom recycling bins to help ensure correct sorting.
- Staff members used a swap table for unused supplies which could be taken by staff who would use the supplies.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school installed occupancy sensors on the lights in all restrooms.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Chautauqua regularly shared energy conservation facts during monthly morning announcements.
- Students created “Power off when you leave” posters to hang around the school.
- “Turn off Lights” and “Turn off Equipment” signs were placed near switches and equipment in all classrooms to remind students and staff to turn them off when not in use.
- Teachers were sent notices to turn off lights in unoccupied spaces, shut down computers when not in use, and use daylight rather than electric light whenever possible.
- Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjust the thermostat.
- Custodial staff regularly checked the school building for energy waste and reported results to district maintenance staff.
- Teachers ensured windows and doors were closed while heating/cooling was on and closed blinds at the end of the school day to keep heat in.