



Chestnut Hill Academy

School district: Private

School location: Bellevue

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
 October 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
 Achieved in April 2011

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
 Achieved in February 2015

Sustaining Green School:

- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20
- 2021-22
- 2022-23

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 66%.
- To reduce paper, school employees used “good on one side” paper whenever possible.
- The school eliminated the use of plastic bag liners in classroom recycling bins.
- The student Green Team helped set up a school-wide program to collect compostable materials.



The Chestnut Hill student Green Team helped teach others how to sort garbage, recyclable and compostable materials.



A Green Team bulletin board with Green School reminders and updates is located in the school Café.



Display of student pledges vowing an actions students will take to protect the Earth.



- Recycling and composting collection containers with signs listing what can and cannot be recycled were placed in all classrooms and offices.
- The student Green Team placed posters and made presentations about recycling and composting in all classrooms.
- A student team monitored cafeteria recycling, waste, and composting bins to ensure that students understood proper sorting of materials.
- Color-coded blue recycling bins were placed next to each garbage bin, with signs placed on or above each bin directing students on how to sort materials.
- Fourth- and fifth-grade students attended Island Wood, an outdoor education camp on Bainbridge Island focused on conservation of natural resources.
- A food waste reduction campaign was promoted. Lunch orders were tracked with the Chef and the menu was adjusted as needed.
- The school requested menu feedback from parents and students with the intention of incorporating the feedback into future school menus to reduce wasted food.
- The King County Healthy Habitat classroom workshop was presented to second-grade classes.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- To promote energy conservation, staff made announcements to remind students to keep doors closed and turn off lights when possible. A reminder to parents to dress their children appropriately for the weather was included in the school newsletter.
- Motion sensors were placed in classrooms to automatically shut-off lights when rooms were not occupied.
- Maintenance workers monitored the heating system and turned off heat on evenings and weekends when the building was not in use. Classroom heaters were set at 68-70 degrees during school hours and turned off in unused classrooms.
- Energy conservation signs from the Green Schools Program were posted on light switches, computers, and monitors to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.

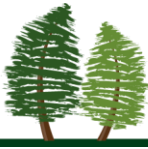


Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The school partnered with Puget Sound Energy to install water faucet aerators.
- To conserve water, the school's irrigation system was set on a timer and faucets were equipped with motion sensors and an automatic shut-off feature.
- Building drain spouts were designed to drain underground to help water the soil.
- The student Green Team measured and compared water flow from faucets with and without aerators throughout the school, then reported their findings to employees. Faucet aerators were installed as needed.
- Water collected in the flow-test bags was used to water classroom plants.
- Students, employees, and parent volunteers maintained the school's year-round garden. Compost purchased locally or generated in a school worm bin was used to enrich the garden's soil. Seeds were planted in indoor pots and in the spring the plants were transplanted in the outdoor garden.
- School employees created a bridge map to going green with messages for reducing waste, saving energy, and preventing water pollution.
- Fourth- and fifth-grade students learned about the local Cedar River watershed. Fourth-grade curriculum included a unit on how to prevent water pollution.
- The school presented Green Tips of the Week on energy and water conservation and posted conservation signs on light switches and faucets.
- The Green Team completed a clean-up session in the school garden before planting native plants to help conserve water.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Chestnut Hill Academy sustained and built on Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation strategies, and Level Three water conservation actions. How the school accomplished this each school year is described below.



Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The Green Team updated posters and made announcements about conservation practices throughout the school year. The team added staff and student members, growing its membership to larger than any previous year.
- The Green Team presented in classrooms to remind students about what materials belong in garbage, recycling, and compost bins, and created a bulletin board in the school café to display Green School reminders.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- To reduce waste, the school switched to compostable paper boats for classroom snacks.
- At the school's 20th anniversary celebration, the Green Team sorted garbage, recyclable and compostable materials.
- Activities for each day of Earth Week included a planting station, introduction of worms to the school's worm bin, and Low Energy Day when all power was turned off for an hour during the school day.
- The Green Team applied for and received a grant to buy a hydroponic garden.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- At the school's annual Fall Festival, plastic bags were no longer offered and instead the school encouraged families to bring their own reusable bags.
- During Earth week, students pledged on a school-wide pledge wall to take at least one action to protect the Earth.
- The school added a mason bee house to its pollinator garden and received a presentation from International Community School students on BEEeducated, a resource created by International Community School students to help schools set up, maintain, and learn about pollinator gardens.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- Students wrote and received a grant for hydration stations to make it easier to fill reusable water bottles. The water coolers were installed in October 2019.



- Second-grade Green Team students helped Kindergarten students in the Café to sort their recyclable and compostable materials.
- In January 2020, to eliminate disposable plastic spoons, the school kitchen started using reusable spoons for classroom snacks.
- During the pandemic when students were learning remotely, the Green Team used Microsoft Teams to communicate green practices.
- On Earth Day 2020, the team created a 30 Ways to Love Our Planet in 30 Days campaign with conservation practices students can do at home.

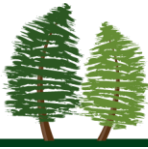
Sustaining Green School 2021-22

- Green Team hung posters near waste bins, recycling bins, and light switches to remind students and staff.
- Throughout the school year, Green Team members composed morning announcements to share ways to be green at school and home.
- To reduce waste, the school kitchen switched to reusable trays instead of compostable trays.
- To reduce wasted food, instructional assistants coordinated with school kitchen staff to provide more accurate counts for snacks.
- The school continued the battery drive by placing a battery receptacle at the front door for families to drop off old batteries. Over 100 pounds of Alkaline and Lithium batteries were collected and recycled. Green Team members helped sort and tape batteries for drop off at the local hazardous waste center.
- Green Team members hosted garden parties and volunteered to weed on weekends to maintain their pollinator garden.
- Green Team members initiated the recycling of old school uniforms. The students removed school logos from hundreds of pounds of uniforms to prepare them for textile recycling at local organizations.
- Due to the paper product shortage the school experienced, Green Team members initiated a project to replace paper towels with reusable cloth towels for cleaning and sanitizing desks.



Sustaining Green School 2022-23

- The Green Team of 27 students created this mission statement for 2022-23: "Working together, Green Team members will educate our school community on ways to create less trash through reusing, recycling, and composting. We will be kind and respectful while teaching others. We will keep our promise to continue being a green school. And we will have fun doing it!"
- Green Team members conducted an inventory of all classroom bins and signs to ensure each had a bin and a sign for garbage, recyclable materials, and organics such as food scraps and food-soiled paper.
- The team created signs and videos to show staff and fellow students exactly what materials should be placed in which bins.
- See [Green Team - Chestnut Hill Academy](#) for more information and to watch the student-created video about how to sort recyclable, compostable, and garbage items.
- Other team projects included:
 - Earth Week announcements, including fun facts or trivia, an inspirational quote, and a daily challenge.
 - Working in the school's pollinator garden to build new planter boxes and take care of the garden.
 - Creating an art installation from used plastic bottle caps.
 - Testing water flow in all classroom sinks. A number of sinks failed the test or were missing aerators – and the school replaced or updated all aerators in order to conserve water.
 - Updating signs next to all light switches to remind the school community to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.
 - Creating a school bulletin board devoted to Green Team activities and information.
- The fourth-grade brought back the 2021-22 pilot program of using cloth rags instead of paper towels for all classroom cleaning and wipe downs.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The school continued its used battery drive. In 2022-23, third-grade students formed a group to lead this activity which involves dropping off batteries at a nearby Hazardous Waste facility.
- The Green Schools recognition banner was hung for the student body to see, and the school's weekly online newsletter, Campus Updates, included information about Chestnut Hill Academy's Green School successes.