



## **Chinook Elementary School**

**School district:** Auburn

**School location:** Auburn

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** September 2015

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2016

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

- Chinook Elementary increased its recycling rate to 63% by:
  - Educating students and staff about why reducing waste and recycling matter, and what materials can be recycled and composted.
  - Reducing wasted food.
  - Collecting organics, including food scraps and other compostable materials, for transport to a composting facility.
  - Replacing disposable foam trays and single-use plastic utensils at lunch with durable, washable trays and utensils. Compostable boats were used for breakfast.
- To reduce wasted food:
  - A food share table was set up for unopened, packaged items from the school meal program so students could place and take items.
  - A “drink it all or don’t open it” milk campaign helped reduce milk waste.
- Custodian Jani May Swift ran a “This is how we do it” event to teach new and returning students how to sort recyclables, compostables, and garbage.
- A student team monitored sorting at lunch and another team regularly patrolled the school to pick up litter.
- Monthly staff emails mentioned any contamination issues in recycling and composting bins, and focused on continual improvement.
- All classrooms were asked to create a paper reuse box for paper used only on one side, so students could use the opposite blank sides.