



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Clark Elementary School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Issaquah

Began Participating in the Green Schools Program:
October 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2010

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

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

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved in April 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved in May 2019

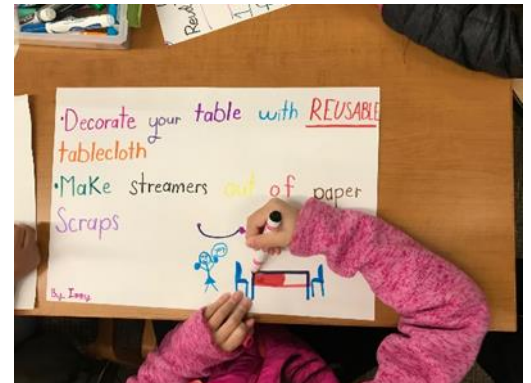
Sustaining Green School 2021-22:
Achieved in June 2022

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Clark Elementary increased its recycling rate to 74% thanks to school-wide collection of recyclable materials in classrooms and offices, and both recyclable and compostable materials in the lunchroom.
- Green Team students monitored lunchroom recycling, composting, and garbage bins daily to help ensure correct sorting.
- Students created a video demonstrating which materials should be recycled and composted. The video was shown in classrooms school-wide.
- A classroom recycling competition encouraged correct sorting with no garbage contamination in recycling bins. Winning classes made the Green Class of the Week list announced each Friday.



Art docents worked with students to create art and projects from natural or repurposed materials, such as creating new guitar picks out of used plastic gift cards.



Student Green Team brainstormed ways to reduce waste at classroom parties.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Throughout the school year, in lunchroom and classroom announcements, Clark Elementary promoted recycling practices and waste-free lunches such as packing lunches from home in reusable containers and reducing wasted food.
- During Waste-Free Wednesdays, students generating the least amount of garbage at each lunch table were recognized.
- The school began collecting compostable materials at staff meetings and switched to using unlined compostable paper plates.
- Staff ensured all garbage, recycling, and composting bins in classrooms, offices, kitchens, and cafeteria are color-coded, paired, and labeled with stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be accepted in each bin.
- Paper use was reduced by 90% by switching to electronic newsletters and fliers.
- Along with all schools in Issaquah School District, Clark Elementary eliminated straws at lunch to cut down on costs and waste.
- A video about litter and pollution prevention was shown in homeroom classes and during lunches.
- Sixth-grade classes received the King County Biospheres and Food for Thought classroom workshops.
- In the annual school variety show, students presented a Trashion Show to showcase clothing and fashion items made from materials typically placed in garbage.
- In fall 2016, the Student Earth Service Corps presented a film series about the environment after school on rainy days and eco-themed trivia games during lunches. New members were recruited with posters, a PowerPoint, and trivia games.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Energy conservation signs from the Green Schools Program were posted on light switches and computers as reminders to turn them off when they are not needed.
- Staff were instructed to keep windows and doors shut to conserve energy, and to turn off lights when leaving rooms.
- Staff and students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting the thermostat settings.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Student Green Team members served as Green Team Fairies to spot check classrooms for energy conservation practices. Weekly awards were given to classes which consistently conserved energy.
- The school's vending machine lights were permanently turned off.
- The school shared energy conservation tips in weekly announcements.
- Fifth-grade students participated in Wheat Week, a series of five one-hour lessons about water, soil, watersheds, and energy used to grow wheat.
- Science Tech students made posters about energy conservation and hung them throughout the school.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Water conservation signs from the Green Schools Program were placed near faucets to encourage students to be mindful about wasting water.
- Science Tech classes worked with the organization Mountains to Sound Greenway on water stewardship projects. About 50 science/technology students tested Issaquah Creek water as part of that partnership.
- Clark Elementary held a Water Ecology week in which water ecology lessons were presented each day during student library sessions. Fourth-grade classes included water conservation and pollution prevention topics in their curriculum.
- The school worked with City of Issaquah on a School Pool Project to reduce emissions and increase walking, biking, and carpooling to and from school.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Clark Elementary sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school held a book swap to encourage the book reuse.
- Art docents led student art projects: Guitar pics were created using old credit cards, scrap metal was used to create figurines, and art scenes were created using natural materials such as leaves and pine cones.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

The student Green Team regularly met before school. Team members completed reuse art projects, and planned and held waste-free classroom parties, Earth Day activities, and waste-free Wednesday lunches.

Sustaining Green School 2021-22

- Students bring reusable water bottles to school to reduce waste.
- Students picked up playground trash and recycled items that could be recycled.
- To reduce waste, students used both sides of the paper and old copies.
- Students participated in a book swap event, with 290 students bringing books. Nearly 900 books were swapped.
- Students recycled used markers through the Crayola's recycling program.
- K-5th grade students learned how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- Second grade students read "One Plastic Bag", "Isatou Ceesay", and the "Recycling Women of Gambia." Third-grade students discussed about how Rachel Carson inspired the environmental movement.
- Fourth-grade students read "Ada's Violin" and "The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay." Fifth-grade students read "We are Water Protectors."