



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Cottage Lake Elementary School

School district: Northshore

School location: Woodinville

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
November 2014

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2015

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2016

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Cottage Lake achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 60%.
- Fifth- and sixth-grade students formed a Green Team to plan activities to reduce waste and garden on the school's campus.
- Classes weighed their lunch waste and planned a school-wide competition to reduce food waste.
- To reduce waste, the school began to use durable trays and bulk dispensers for condiments.
- In 2015-16, staff added a paper reuse box in the staff room and a recycling bin in the playground. Newsletters were sent through email to cut down on paper waste.
- The school received King County's Waste Reduction and Recycling Assembly to educate and inspire students and staff. School leaders promoted waste reduction and recycling in school announcements and newsletters.
- In 2015-16, the school conducted frequent litter pickups on the school grounds.



Students preparing the school garden for an Earth Day planting

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Compared to 2014-15, the school's 2015-16 energy consumption decreased by 6%.
- Each week, Green Team members shared conservation information in morning announcements.



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- Teachers choose task lighting over central lighting the majority of the time, and projectors and smart boards were kept in energy efficient mode.
- Occupancy sensors and timers ensured lights do not stay on in unoccupied rooms.
- School-wide policies guided teachers to save energy by keeping windows and doors closed when energy systems were running, closing blinds at hot times of the day, and keeping all vents and grills free of obstructions.

Award

The Green Team earned a 2016 Earth Heroes award for its ongoing outreach to educate peers and school staff about reducing waste and recycling.