



Crystal Springs Elementary School

School district: Northshore

School location: Bothell

Began participating in Green Schools Program: October 2018

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in January 2020

Student Green Team recognition: Received in multiple years, including June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Crystal Springs Elementary achieved a 43% recycling rate.
- Students created and shared with the school a video on how to sort recyclable materials. Recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program were posted next to recycling bins in classrooms and hallways.
- Tips on conservation practices such as packing a waste-free lunch from home using reusable containers were shared in daily morning announcements.
- The school's PTSA purchased a reusable waste bottle for each student.
- Students used durable trays and utensils. Silverware Superheroes, a group of first-grade volunteers, reminded fellow students to set aside durable utensils for washing and reuse.
- In the cafeteria, bulk condiment dispensers replaced individual packets.
- To reduce paper use, kindergarten and first-grade classes used blank sides of paper used on one side only. Whiteboards replaced paper workbooks in Ms. Penski's class. Unwanted books, whiteboards, and other items were offered to other teachers or donated instead of being disposed.
- Students attended a school assembly about conservation provided by King County, and four classrooms participated in King County classroom workshops.
- For a class project, fifth-graders recorded food waste quantities in their classroom.
- In April 2019, the school established a native plant garden and installed a water cistern.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Student Green Team recognition: June 2023

- In 2022-23, the school began using reusable utensils which were added to food scraps to be composted at a regional composting facility.
- In each classroom, one or two students volunteered to be compost captains to monitor sorting and oversee these steps:
 - Students placed reusable utensils in a bin outside their classrooms
 - Students placed food scraps in a compost bin.
 - Students placed garbage in a garbage bin.
 - Students stacked their reusable trays.
- With leadership from teacher and facilitator Andrea Penski and Austin Troyer, announcements about conservation practices such as waste prevention, recycling, composting, and water conservation were made weekly over the intercom system.