



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Daniel Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools

Program: November 2011

Level One of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved May 2012



Student Green Team

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Daniel Elementary recycled 67% of its solid waste.
- Monthly waste-free lunch campaigns were held in the lunchroom, focusing primarily on reducing wasted foods and beverages.
- The principal reminded students to drink their milk and to only take milk if they would drink it. **Lunchroom milk waste was reduced from seven gallons of leftover milk each day in Sept. 2011 to only three gallons each day in March 2012.**
- To reduce paper use, one-sided paper reuse boxes were placed in each classroom and the school library for paper that's been used only on one side.
- Head Custodian Heladio Guerrero used teachable moments in the lunchroom to remind students how to sort their recyclable and compostable materials.
- The sixth-grade student Green Team collected the school's recyclable materials and helped the custodian sort items left on tables after lunch.
- In November 2011, King County provided a school assembly on waste reduction as a kick-off event for Green School efforts.
- Green Team staff created a bulletin board dedicated to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink messages.
- Stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can and can't be recycled were placed on all indoor recycling bins.
- In spring 2012, to educate students and raise environmental awareness, a guest theater group performed *The Lorax*, and the school put on a *Being Green* musical.