



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

East Hill Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: December 2011

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2012

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2012

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2014

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- East Hill Elementary reached a recycling rate of 50 percent.
- Thanks to the school's recycling success, garbage service was reduced from a 6-yard dumpster collected twice each week to an 8-yard dumpster collected once each week. This change saved the school district more than \$2,400 annually.
- Shannon McAbee, head custodian, oversaw recycling collection and assisted with the school's conservation efforts.
- Teachers monitored and reminded students of proper recycling practices throughout the school year.
- School staff placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program on classroom and lunchroom recycling bins.
- Student Green Team members created a recycling poster to place in the lunchroom.
- To reduce paper use, each classroom and the school office was provided with a paper reuse box in which paper used only on one side was made available to students and staff.
- Waste reduction and recycling practices were promoted in staff meetings, regular PA and lunch announcements, and in the school newsletter for families.
- Waste-free lunches were promoted during lunch announcements.
- As part of a district-wide initiative to reduce waste in the cafeteria, straws were eliminated and plastic-wrapped utensils were replaced with loose utensils.
- The East Hill Green Schools team organized a school-wide Green Day in May 2012 to promote recycling, energy conservation and protecting the environment.
- In December 2013, the school received King County's waste reduction and recycling assembly to help educate and inspire students and staff.



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Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The East Hill Green Schools team placed energy conservation labels from the Green Schools Program near all light switches and electrical equipment to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- During winter months, students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the season. All school thermostats were set at 68-70 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Energy conservation facts and tips were included in PA announcements.
- School computers are automatically shut down each night with district software.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Second-grade students planted native, drought-resistant rhododendrons in an area on campus.
- A Kent School District policy reduced water use by limiting irrigation to play fields and sports fields only.
- Water conservation signs were posted near sinks and faucets to remind staff and students to turn off faucets when not in use.
- Fourth- and fifth-grade students attended a water festival at Green River Community College to learn about watersheds, how water is used, and ways they can conserve water.
- Student Green Team members shared water conservation tips and used the regional Puget Sound Starts Here campaign to create announcements about how students, staff, and families can help reduce stormwater pollution. Recommendations from the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign were also included in a school newsletter article.
- Most faucets were equipped with sensors to automatically turn off when not in use.
- To conserve water, East Hill installed faucet aerators, low-flow toilets, and Energy Star dishwashers.