



Emerald Park Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Emerald Park started a student Green Team in 2010 to lead school efforts to expand recycling practices. The school achieved a recycling rate of 43%.
- Green Team students helped with recycling in the lunchroom, where milk cartons, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans were collected to be recycled.
- Recycling bins and signs provided by the Green Schools Program were placed in each classroom and office to help students and staff to recycle.
- To reduce waste, the district eliminated straws and replaced the plastic wrapped sets of utensils, napkins, and straws with individual sporks and napkins in dispensers. Designed to protect health, the dispensers released sporks and napkins one at a time so each utensil and napkin can be handled by only one child.
- With student participation and support from custodian John Sweet, teachers, and lunchroom supervisor Carol Albanese, Emerald Park created an effective waste reduction and recycling program.
- Posters and bulletin boards throughout the school encouraged students to recycle and look for new ways to reduce waste, reuse items, and recycle.

Comment

“It was encouraging to find most students were aware of recycling and its benefit to our earth. They are willing to ask whether or not an item can be recycled. The lunchroom recycling program is student driven. Older students assist and supervise younger students to encourage more recycling. Students are responsible for emptying classroom recycling bins. Our students appreciate the opportunity to make a difference.” – **Carol Albanese, lunchroom supervisor**