



Emily Dickinson Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Redmond

Began participating in Green Schools Program: November 2018

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2019

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2020

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school increased its recycling rate from 49% to 62%.
- A Green Schools Program representative trained 45 third- and fourth-grade Green Team members how to monitor lunchroom sorting stations to help their fellow students sort correctly.
- A recycling bin with a recycling sign showing what can be recycled was placed next to a garbage bin in each classroom, office, and the cafeteria.
- Six classrooms started to collect food scraps. Green Team members helped educate teachers and students how to sort correctly.
- To promote waste reduction and recycling practices, the school made announcements at staff meetings and in student trainings.
- To reduce food waste, “Take or bring only what you will eat” messages were shared with students.
- The cafeteria used washable reusable trays and unwrapped utensils.
- To reduce paper use, teachers posted assignments on PowerSchool and One Note, made double-sided copies, and wrote on both sides of paper.
- The ASB created monthly reports about the school’s resource conservation practices and shared the achievements with all classes.



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- To sustain waste reduction and recycling practices, Green Team students provided education and reminders about sorting recyclable materials and food scraps. Each month, the ASB, comprised of fifth-grade students, shared information with their buddy classes (Kindergarten to fourth grade) about reducing waste and recycling.
- During 2019-20, most classrooms started to collect food scraps. Student Green Team members collected the food scraps daily and added them to the cafeteria compost bins. Compostable materials collected at Emily Dickinson were composted at a regional composting facility.
- In fall 2019, Green Team students completed a sustainability workshop with local high school students.
- An energy monitor was added to the list of classroom jobs.
- Student Power Patrol members helped train other students to conduct energy audits with teacher Kelly Williams. Students conducted Power Patrol energy audits in each classroom, analyzed the data, and used it to recommend improved classroom energy conservation practices. Students also made signs to remind their classmates about those practices.
- Ms. Williams included energy conservation reminders in her morning announcements.
- Students and staff members walked around the school building to inspect door sweeps, windows, door jambs, and insulation, then noted what improvements could be made to conserve energy.
- The school district's policy prohibited personal appliance use in classrooms.
- At the end of each day, a software program shut down computers and printers were programmed to enter sleep mode. Teachers were encouraged to turn off smart boards, projectors, and document cameras when not in use.
- Teachers opened the blinds for natural lighting and used task lights instead of overhead lights when possible.



Water Conservation (Level Three)

- With guidance and support from librarian and Green Team advisor Kelly Williams and custodian Tim Klujber, the school continued and improved waste reduction and recycling practices. Garbage was reduced thanks to cafeteria collection of food scraps and other compostable materials, as well as collection of recyclable materials in the cafeteria, classrooms, offices, and other areas of the school. Each pod also had a food scraps bin used for food waste from snacks.
- The 60-member Green Team continued to monitor the two cafeteria sorting stations, and to use the Green Schools Program energy conservation checklist to make announcements about energy conservation.
- The school used the Green Schools Program water conservation Best Practices Guide to create weekly announcements about why water conservation matters and how to conserve water at school and home.
- The Green Team helped clean up the school's wetlands and trails during Wetlands Week, which coincides with April's Earth Day.
- The team learned about Snoqualmie Tribe efforts to restore Kokanee salmon, and then raised coho salmon at school for release into Bear Creek. At the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery and in Nature Vision classroom lessons, students learned about local plants, fish, and animals.
- All facets in the school have filters to reduce water consumption.